



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION

Resolution No. 38 - 16

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING IN THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY AIDS ALLOCATION

1 Passage of this resolution will request the State of Wisconsin to increase funding for the
2 county child welfare system in the State of Wisconsin. The State Department of Children and
3 Families provides funding to counties through the Children and Family Aids allocation for the
4 provision of child abuse and neglect services, including prevention, investigation, treatment,
5 and out-of-home placement costs. The base funding for child welfare services, however, has
6 not increased since the Department of Children and Families was created in 2009. The number
7 of child protective services (CPS) referrals has increased by 30 percent since 2007 - from 55,895
8 referrals in 2007 to 72,698 in 2014. In addition, the number of screened-in CPS reports has
9 increased from 18,706 in 2011 to 20,384 in 2015. The stress of increasing caseloads is taking its
10 toll on CPS workers, causing many experienced child welfare workers to leave the profession
11 and counties are struggling to recruit and retain new child welfare workers. It is critical that
12 counties have the resources necessary to ensure the safety of children in every corner of the
13 state.

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RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING IN THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY AIDS ALLOCATION

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families provides funding to counties through the Children and Family Aids allocation for the provision of child abuse and neglect services, including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs; and

WHEREAS, base funding for child welfare services has not increased since the Department of Children and Families was created in 2009; and

WHEREAS, over the past few years, the child welfare workload has increased in all counties across the state; and

WHEREAS, the number of child protective services (CPS) referrals has increased by 30 percent since 2007 - from 55,895 referrals in 2007 to 72,698 in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the number of children in out-of-home care has increased from 7,653 in 2011 to 8,258 in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the number of screened-in CPS reports has increased from 18,706 in 2011 to 20,384 in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the number of Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) petitions filed with the court has increased 12.5 percent from 2008 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, counties are struggling to recruit and retain child welfare workers; and

WHEREAS, the stress of increasing caseloads is taking its toll on CPS workers, causing many experienced child welfare workers to leave the profession; and

WHEREAS, the leading cause of these increases is the use of heroin, opiates, and methamphetamines; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that counties have the resources necessary to ensure the safety of children in every corner of the state; and

WHEREAS, counties are struggling to identify resources to increase child welfare staff, especially given the significant overmatch counties already put in the human services system;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the State of Wisconsin, as part of its 2017-19 state biennial budget,

59 increase funding to counties in the Children and Family Aids allocation to assist counties in
60 serving the increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system; and

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62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott
63 Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of
64 Administration Secretary Scott Neitzel, area state legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties
65 Association.

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67 Forwarded to the County Board by the Health and Human Services Board.

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69 **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**
70 There is no fiscal impact to Chippewa County by passage of this resolution.

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73 History:
74 10/20/16 Health & Human Services Board FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD

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Approved as to Form:

James B. Sherman

James B. Sherman, Corporation Counsel

10/10/2016

Melissa J. Roach

Melissa J. Roach, Finance Director

10/11/2016

Frank R. Pascarella

Frank R. Pascarella, County Administrator

10/11/2016

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1st Reading 11-8-16 2nd Reading N/A
Board Action - Vote Required 4M
For 15 Absent 0
Against 0 Abstain 0
Clerk Signature: S. Fion