



**Eau Claire County
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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Diane Cable, Director

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November 10, 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

On November 9, 2016, the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors unanimously supported the enclosed resolution that requests the State of Wisconsin, in the 2017-19 state biennial budget, to increase the Children and Family Aids Allocation to counties. The Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors recognize through this passed resolution, the importance and imperative need for the increase in funding to assist counties to serve the increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system.

Sincerely,

Diane Cable, Director
Eau Claire County DHS

- SUPPORTING INCREASED FUNDING IN THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY AIDS
ALLOCATION -

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Counties Association in conjunction with the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) is working to secure additional funding in the Child and Family Aids allocation in the State 2017-19 biennial budget; and

WHEREAS, the challenges which face human services departments across the state are always significant, but what is occurring in the child protective services area currently is nothing short of unprecedented; and

WHEREAS, there was an 8.7 percent increase in screened in reports for the balance of the State from 2008 to 2015. In this same time period, Eau Claire County has seen an 8 percent increase in screened in reports; and

WHEREAS, since 2011, the cost of Child Welfare services for Eau Claire County has increased by 1 million dollars, with only an increase of 100,000 thousand dollars in the base allocation related to the last increase in 2009 and small increases to foster care; and

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 County Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin, in its 2017-19 state biennial budget, increase funding to counties in the Children and Family Aids allocation to assist counties in serving the increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system.

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

ADOPTED: November 9, 2016

Janet K. Loomis


County Clerk