

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE  
WISCONSIN CHILDREN AND FAMILY AIDS ALLOCATION**

TO THE MANITOWOC COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1           WHEREAS, except for Milwaukee County, the Wisconsin child welfare system is  
2 county-operated and state-supervised, where the system is administered by the Wisconsin  
3 Department of Children and Families (DCF); and  
4

5           WHEREAS, even though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with federal  
6 requirements and shares liability for ensuring the system is meeting its obligations to children,  
7 DCF provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child abuse and neglect services  
8 including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, in recent years the state of Wisconsin has added numerous mandates and  
11 practice expectations, which has increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and  
12 costs; and  
13

14           WHEREAS, the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought Wisconsin’s child  
15 welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the system’s ability to meet its  
16 obligations to children and families; and  
17

18           WHEREAS, 33 percent of all CPS cases are now drug cases, which results in dramatic CPS  
19 workload increases due to the time intensity of these drug cases – an average of 25 hours per Initial  
20 Assessment versus 14 hours per non-drug case; and  
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22           WHEREAS, Manitowoc County has experienced increased CPS referrals from 1,056 in  
23 2014 to 1,174 in 2017 and increase children in out-of-home care from 38 in 2014 to 70 in 2017,  
24 with the majority of cases attributed to parental substance abuse; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, the capacity for counties to continue to bear the lion’s share of financial  
27 responsibility to address this crisis has been exhausted, as rising county contributions to the CPS  
28 system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation; and  
29

30           WHEREAS, maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin’s child welfare system is  
31 critical to secure the safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and  
32

33           WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for  
34 all counties, including the absence of caseload standards, no process for regular legislative  
35 evaluation and prioritization of CPS needs, and the absence of a legislative committee that  
36 provides regular policy guidance concerning CPS system issues such as adequate funding,  
37 performance, cost sharing and long-term stability; and  
38

39 WHEREAS, along with DMCPs, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with  
40 county-administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS caseworkers,  
41 completed thorough workload studies as a basis of determining funding needs, or otherwise have  
42 made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS workloads manageable; and  
43

44 WHEREAS, the children in Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow the current  
45 level of under resourcing, oversight gaps and, disparity of attention, while shifting the burden to  
46 property taxpayers.  
47

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitowoc County Board of  
49 Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids  
50 Allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by \$30 million annually to cover a  
51 greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase staffing levels based on the caseload  
52 standards developed by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) so  
53 Wisconsin's CPS system can meet its obligations; and  
54

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Manitowoc County Board of Supervisors urges  
56 the state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review  
57 the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an  
58 appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and  
59 ongoing system needs; and  
60


61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott  
62 Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of  
63 Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, and area legislators.


Dated this 8th day of November 2018.

Respectfully submitted by the  
Human Services Board

  
Rick Henrickson, Chair

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

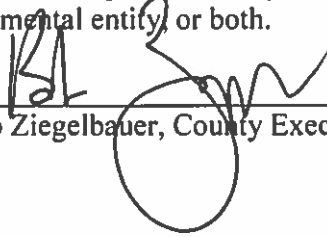
FISCAL NOTE: Reviewed and approved by Comptroller. 

LEGAL NOTE: Reviewed and approved as to form by Corporation Counsel. 

I respect the prerogative of the members of the Manitowoc County Board of Supervisors to voice their opinions on legislative issues. Therefore, it is my practice to neither approve nor veto a legislative policy resolution that has been enacted by the County Board in order to allow the County Board, acting as the legislative branch of county government, to freely express its

sentiment on legislative and public policy issues or to request action by a governmental entity or both.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Ziegelbauer, County Executive

11/9/18  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Voting Results for Resolution #3**  
 Supporting Increased Funding for the Wisconsin Children and Family Aids Allocation  
 Passed By Majority Vote

YES: 23 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2

Holschbach - 1	Second	YES	Baumann - 14	YES
Nickels - 2		YES	Wagner - 15	YES
Metzger - 3		YES	Cavanaugh - 16	Motion
Brey - 4		YES	Maresh - 17	YES
Brunner - 5		YES	Muench - 18	YES
Hansen - 6		YES	Falkowski - 19	YES
Vogt - 7		YES	Hoffman - 20	YES
Williams - 8		YES	Gerroll - 21	YES
Gauger - 9		YES	Dyzak - 22	YES
Zimmer - 10		YES	Henrickson - 23	ABSENT
Vogel - 11		YES	Geimer - 24	YES
Behnke - 12		YES	Swade - 25	YES
Neils - 13		ABSENT		