

RESOLUTION NO. 62-16

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF 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 children in out-of-home care through Fond du Lac County Department of Social Services has increased by 15.6 percent, from an annual average of 153 in 2011 to an annual average of 177 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 screened-in CPS reports resulting in an Initial Assessment in Fond du Lac County has increased by 19.18 percent, from 563 in 2011 to 671 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, the number of CHIPS petitions filed with the court in Fond du Lac County has increased by 14.06 percent, from 128 cases in 2008 to 146 cases in 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 Fond du Lac 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.

Dated December 20, 2016

SUBMITTED BY:
SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD




Lisette A. Aldrich



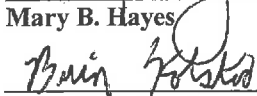
Jay J. Myrechuck



Joseph M. Fenrick



Mary B. Hayes



Brian T. Kolstad


FISCAL NOTE: This resolution does not require an appropriation from the county general fund.

APPROVED BY:



Allen J. Buechel
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED BY:



Meggin R. McNamara
CORPORATION COUNSEL