



RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: R03-2021-1381

Submitted By: Health and Human Services Date 3/9/21

Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding

- WHEREAS: Ashland County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to Ashland County residents including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and
- WHEREAS: Our children's well-being, economic security and success in life are enhanced by parents who provide financial and emotional support; and
- WHEREAS: County child support agencies collected \$935 million in child support during 2019 and established 98,405 health insurance orders for Wisconsin children; and
- WHEREAS: Ashland County's Child Support Agency provides services to children as well as custodial and non-custodial parents to reduce childhood poverty rates, establish parental rights and promote the involvement of both parents in the lives of their children; and
- WHEREAS: The economic security and social service programs provided by the Ashland County Child Support Agency are needed by Wisconsin children and families now more than ever due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19; and
- WHEREAS: State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with the county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and
- WHEREAS: Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program has fallen from 2nd in the nation for collecting current support to 5th; and
- WHEREAS: Wisconsin's decreased performance has led to the state losing out on an estimated \$70,000 in potential federal incentive payments between calendar year 2019 and 2020; and
- WHEREAS: A federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and
- WHEREAS: Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding. Further drops in performance would result in additional reductions to federal funding for Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS: Decreased federal funding results in less funding for Ashland County's child support agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services and reduced child support collections; and

WHEREAS: New state investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates roughly \$2 in federal matching funds; and

WHEREAS: Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of \$6.20 in support for every dollar invested in the program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$4 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2021-23 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$7.7 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Ashland County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.

Richard Pufall 3-10-21
Richard Pufall, County Board Chair Date

Heather W. Schutte sm 3/10/21
Heather Schutte, County Clerk Date