

Resolution No. 64-01/21

**Supporting an Increase in County Child Support Funding in the Governor's Budget for
Fiscal Year 21-23**

1 Moved/Sponsored by: Walworth County Executive Committee

2

3 **WHEREAS**, Walworth County Child Support Services administers the Child Support Program
4 on behalf of the state, providing services to Walworth County residents including the establishment
5 of paternity, child support, and health insurance orders for children, court order entry, and
6 enforcing and modifying orders; and,

7

8 **WHEREAS**, our children's well-being, economic security and success in life are enhanced by
9 parents who provide financial and emotional support; and,

10

11 **WHEREAS**, Walworth County's Child Support Agency has been a point of contact for parents
12 needing economic security, particularly during this time of economic downturn, which has resulted
13 in an increased workload for Walworth County staff; and,

14

15 **WHEREAS**, during Federal Fiscal Year 2020, Walworth County Child Support Services collected
16 \$10,829,723 in current child support, collected all or partial arrears in over 80% of all cases, and
17 collected \$157,274 in foster care debt, and from 2011 through 2019, Walworth County recovered
18 \$3,859,778 in birth expense costs on behalf of the Wisconsin Medicaid agency, and,

19

20 **WHEREAS**, an abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated federal birth cost
21 recovery matching funds for Wisconsin which will result in an approximate loss of \$100,000 in
22 annual matching funds for Walworth County; and,

23

24 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program has fallen from 2nd in the nation
25 for collecting current support to 5th which has resulted in a decrease of federal incentive payments
26 to Wisconsin and to the Counties; and,

27

28 **WHEREAS**, further drops in performance will result in additional reductions in federal funding
29 for Wisconsin resulting in additional loss of funding to counties; and,

30

31 **WHEREAS**, state funding for the child support program has remained mostly flat at \$8.5 million
32 for over a decade and has failed to keep up with increasing county agency costs; and,

33

34 **WHEREAS**, new state investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match.
35 Every \$1 of state General Purpose Revenue invested in the Child Support Program generates
36 roughly \$2 in federal matching funds; and,


37

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


40

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

7
8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk
9 to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing
10 WALWORTH COUNTY, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the
11 Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.



Nancy Russell
County Board Chair



Kimberly S. Bushey
County Clerk

County Board Meeting Date: January 12, 2021

Action Required: Majority Vote X Two-thirds Vote _____ Other _____

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.
Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:

<p>DocuSigned by: <u>Michael Cotter</u> 12/29/2020 _____ Michael P. Cotter Date Corporation Counsel</p>	<p>DocuSigned by: <u>Jessica Conley</u> 1/4/2021 _____ Jessica Conley Date Finance Director</p>
<p>DocuSigned by: <u>Mark W. Luberdka</u> /2021 _____ Mark W. Luberdka Date County Administrator</p>	

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.

This Resolution Ordinance was:
Adopted: Roll Call/U.C. Voice
Rejected/Referred/Laid Over
Ayes: _____ Noes: _____ Absent: _____
Date January 12, 2021