



**RESOLUTION #** 43-1/23

**TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**ITEM #** 1-25

**BOARD ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 26  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 2-2 vacant  
Vote Req: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Action: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 8  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 1

**RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING**

**WHEREAS**, La Crosse County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing a holistic set of services to many La Crosse County residents including paternity establishment, assistance with finding employment, obtaining child support and establishing health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

**WHEREAS**, Child support is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs in the state, with county child support agencies serving approximately 347,000 children and collecting roughly \$906 million in financial support for Wisconsin families in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Child support is proven to reduce childhood poverty rates, lead to better educational and behavioral outcomes for children, and have a positive effect on food security, health and housing stability; and

**WHEREAS**, County child support agencies work closely with both parents to ensure that they have the help they need to be successful, including assistance with finding employment, referrals to other social service programs and right-sizing orders for individuals impacted by substances use disorders or other challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to a high number of caseloads per worker, increased complexity of cases, inflation and new regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, an abrupt 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 funding. The state has already dropped from 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for the collection of current support in 2016 to 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, without additional state funds, county child support agencies may need to eliminate positions, further increase caseloads, or reduce services, further impacting federal performance measures, which would result in the loss of additional federal funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the individuals most impacted by insufficient funding for child support are the children and families served by county child support agencies, who will need to seek out public assistance programming absent the financial security provided by the child support program; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 \$6.43 in support for every dollar invested in the program.

**RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2023-25 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$9.7 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.

**BE IT 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 La Crosse County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.

**FISCAL NOTE:** La Crosse County's Child Support operations are tracked in the 100.110.1060 division within the County financial system. 2023 budgeted expenses and indirect costs total \$1,315,935. 2023 budgeted revenue to be received from the State of Wisconsin are \$1,073,801, with the remainder covered by levy and public charges

Date: 1/11/23  
[Signature]  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 1-11-23  
[Signature]  
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	_____	_____	_____	Requested By: Corporation Counsel Date Requested: December 5, 2022 Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Fin. Director	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	
Corp. Counsel	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____	
Board Chair	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 19 Day of January, 2023

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023.

[Signature]  
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk