

Resolution No. 50 (2022) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING

COVER MEMO

TO:	County Board of Supervisors
FROM:	Ken Witt, County Administrator Lisa Plunkett, Child Support Administrator, Child Support
DATE:	December 6, 2022
AGENDA ITEM:	Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association (WCSEA) would like to encourage legislators from every corner of the state to support the request for increased child support funding. There is strength in numbers so the WCSEA is requesting every county to support this resolution.

Legislators listen to their local constituents, and St. Croix County could mean the difference between stagnant child support agency funding and counties obtaining the resources required to provide Wisconsin's families the child support services they need and deserve.



Resolution No. 50 (2022) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING

1 2 3 4 5 6	WHEREAS, St Croix County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the State of Wisconsin, providing a holistic set of services to St Croix County children and their parents, including paternity establishment, assistance with finding employment, obtaining child support, and establishing health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and
7 8 9 10	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
11 12 13 14	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
15 16 17 18 19	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
20 21 22 23	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
24 25 26	WHEREAS, an abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and
27 28 29 30	WHEREAS , Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional funding. The state has already dropped from 2nd in the nation for the collection of current support in 2016 to 6th in the nation in 2021; and
31 32 33 34	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
35 36 37 38 39	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
40 41 42 43	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.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Croix 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 St. Croix County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of
 Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration

Legal – Fiscal – Administrative Approvals: Legal Note: Fiscal Impact: Increase in State General Purpose Revenue, which will generate additional matching funds from the Federal government. The specific amount unknown. with ounty 10/31/2022 11/03/22 Public Protection & Judiciary Committee **APPROVED**

RESULT:APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]MOVER:Cathy Leaf, SupervisorSECONDER:Paul Adams, SupervisorAYES:Leaf, Adams, Feidler, Carlson, Ramberg

	Vote Confirmation.		
	(SAF)	iller	
	Bob Feidler PPJ Chair	11/29/2022	
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St. Croix County Board of Supervisors Action: Roll Call - Vote Requirement – Majority of Supervisors Present RESULT: ADOPTED [17 TO 1] MOVER: Dave Ostness, Mark Carlson AYES: Anderson, Long, Leaf, Adams, Berning, Ottino, Feidler, Ostness, Counter, Hansen, Sherley, Tellijohn, Carlson, Barcalow, Swanepoel, VanSomeren, Ramberg NAYS: Lisa Lind EXCUSED: Carah Koch

Christine Hines, County Clerk