



## Memorandum

Please see attached Resolution signed by the Pepin County Board of Supervisors on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### *Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding*

The Pepin County Board of Supervisors request that Governor Evers, all the State Senators, State Representatives that represent Pepin County and the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration and Wisconsin Counties Association to help support an increase in County Child funding programs.

Request that state funding for county child support agencies be increase by \$5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 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.

Pepin County is reaching out for your support on this issue .

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Audrey Bauer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Audrey Bauer  
Pepin County Clerk  
740 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. W  
Durand WI 54736  
715-672-8857  
[countyclerk@co.pepin.wi.us](mailto:countyclerk@co.pepin.wi.us)



RESOLUTION NO. 15-23

**Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding**

- WHEREAS**, Pepin County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing a holistic set of services to Pepin 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
- 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 substance 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pepin 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.

**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 Pepin County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE PEPIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:**

  
Board Chair

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS VOTE**  
6 0 0 0  
In favor Oppose Absent Abstain

*- With one vacant Citizen member.*

**FISCAL IMPACT REVIEWED** – The estimated impact of the proposed changes to the state budget would increase Pepin County funding by an estimated additional total of \$12,000 each year in state and federal dollars, which would assist in managing the continually rising costs.

  
Finance Director

X                       
Recommend Not Recommend

**RECOMMENDED BY THE PEPIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:**


  
Administrative Committee Chair

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS VOTE**  
5 0 0 0  
In Favor Oppose Absent Abstain

**COUNTY BOARD ACTION:**

X ADOPTED  
           DEFEATED  
           TABLED In Favor 12 Opposed 0 Absent 0 Abstain 6

by the Pepin County Board of Supervisors on this 15 day of March 2023

  
County Clerk

  
County Board Chair