

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Melissa R. Wittwer, Director
Rock County Child Support Services
INITIATED BY



Melissa R. Wittwer, Director
Rock County Child Support Services
DRAFTED BY

Public Safety and Justice Committee
SUBMITTED BY

December 28, 2020
DATE DRAFTED

SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Rock County Child Support Agency administers the Child Support Enforcement Program
- 2 on behalf of the state, providing services to more than 31,500 Rock County residents including paternity
- 3 establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and
- 4 modifying those orders; and
- 5
- 6 **WHEREAS**, our children’s well-being, economic security, and success in life are enhanced by parents
- 7 who provide financial and emotional support; and
- 8
- 9 **WHEREAS**, county child support agencies collected \$935 Million in child support during 2019 and
- 10 established 98,405 health insurance orders for Wisconsin children; and
- 11
- 12 **WHEREAS**, Rock County’s Child Support Agency provides services to children as well as custodial and
- 13 non-custodial parents that reduce childhood poverty rates, establish parental rights, and promote the
- 14 involvement of both parents in the lives of their children; and
- 15
- 16 **WHEREAS**, the economic security and social service programs provided by the Rock County Child
- 17 Support Agency are needed by Wisconsin children and families now more than ever due to the economic
- 18 downturn caused by COVID-19; and
- 19
- 20 **WHEREAS**, state funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with county agency
- 21 costs, which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation, and new federal regulations; and
- 22
- 23 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program has fallen from 2nd in the nation for
- 24 collecting current support to 5th; and
- 25
- 26 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s decreased performance has led to the state losing out on an estimated \$70,000
- 27 in potential federal incentive payments between calendar year 2019 and 2020; and
- 28
- 29 **WHEREAS**, an abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2 million in federal
- 30 birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and
- 31
- 32 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding.
- 33 Further drops in performance would result in additional reductions to federal funding for Wisconsin; and
- 34
- 35 **WHEREAS**, decreased federal funding would lead to less funding for Rock County’s Child Support
- 36 Agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services and reduced child
- 37 support collections; and
- 38
- 39 **WHEREAS**, new state investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match. Every \$1
- 40 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates \$2 in federal matching funds; and
- 41
- 42 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an
- 43 average of \$6.20 in support for every dollar invested in the program.

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41 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
42 this 14th day of January, 2021 respectfully requests that state funding for county child support
43 agencies be increased by \$4 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2021-23 Wisconsin state budget,
44 which will generate approximately \$7.7 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment
45 will ensure that counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.
46

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the
48 Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Rock County,
49 the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association
50 for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

/s/Mary Beaver
Mary Beaver, Chair

/s/Brian Knudson
Brian Knudson, Vice Chair

/s/Jacob Taylor
Jacob Taylor

/s/ Ron Bomkamp
Ron Bomkamp

/s/Danette Rynes
Danette Rynes

FISCAL NOTE:

No fiscal impact in and by itself.

/s/ Sherry Oja

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats.

/s/ Richard Greenlee

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

/s/ Josh Smith

Josh Smith
County Administrator