

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: November 13, 2019

TO: Theodore Lipscomb Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Mary Jo Meyers, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by: Clare O'Brien, Budget & Operations Manager, DHHS

SUBJECT: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter into a State/County contract for Community Youth and Family Aids in the amount of \$42,402,102 for 2020

ISSUE

Section 301.031 of the Wisconsin Statutes requires counties to execute an annual contract with the State Department of Children and Families (DCF) for the "Community Youth and Family Aids Program." This program provides State funding for County services to youth offenders as mandated by State and/or Federal law.

Departments must obtain authorization from the County Board in order to execute contracts in excess of \$300,000. The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is, therefore, requesting authorization to enter into a 2020 contract with the State DCF for the provision of youth justice services mandated by State law. The County cannot receive 2020 revenue from the State until the contract is signed.

BACKGROUND

The Community Youth and Family Aids Program, commonly referred to as "Youth Aids," is the State's primary means of providing counties with direct assistance to fund the cost of services of youth involved in the youth justice system. This revenue is used to fund costs in the DHHS Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS). Counties supplement their youth justice funding needs with property tax levy and various grant revenues to fund the overall costs of the youth justice system.

In 2020, the Youth Aids, Youth Aids AODA and Children and Families Allocation (CFA) anticipated in the DCF contract is \$42,402,102.

Youth Aids Revenue

The base Youth Aids funding amount is based on separate allocations contained in s. 301.26, Wis. Stats. The original base allocation, which is based on the initial formula for allocations to counties when Youth Aids was created in 1979, now includes:

- a. Prior Year Refund Revenue - Statutes require that the State provide a refund to counties if the amount paid by counties under the statutory daily rates is greater than the actual costs in the preceding State fiscal year.
- b. The 1999 Act 9 supplemental funding is allocated based on three factors: a) a county's proportion of the statewide youth population for the most recent year available; b) a county's proportion of statewide Part 1 youth arrests under the uniform crime reporting system of the Office of Justice Assistance for the most recent three-year period available; and c) a county's proportion of statewide youths placed in a youth correctional institution, a secure child caring institution or secure group home for the most recent three-year period available;
- c. The 2001 Act 16 supplemental funding is allocated based on the same three factors above, but with an "override" provision that no county receives less than 93 percent nor more than 115 percent of the amount it would have received if the youth placement factor (item "c" above) were the sole factor used to determine county allocations;
- d. The 2007 Act 20 supplemental funding is allocated based on each county's proportion of the number of youths statewide who are placed in a youth correctional facility during the most recent three-year period for which that information is available;

Additional Program Funding

- Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse (AODA) funding is allocated based on each county's Youth Aids spending on community services (defined as the amount of Youth Aids left after state charges)
- Youth Justice Innovation Grants - utilizing underspending in Calendar Year 2018 Youth Aids, DCF is offering Youth Justice Innovation Grants to support counties in launching new, innovative youth justice projects and practices. Counties may apply for either a \$50,000, \$100,000, or \$150,000 grant in one of four topic areas. Grants will be awarded through a competitive process.

- The Children and Families Allocation (CFA) may be used for child abuse and neglect, community-based youth justice services, and other children and families target populations.

As shown in the chart below, the 2020 contract for Milwaukee County of \$42,402,102 represents a net revenue increase of \$75,823 compared to the 2020 DYFS budget of \$42,326,279. However, in comparing the actual 2019 to 2020 State contracts for Youth Aids funding, revenue declines by \$20,877 as a result of a reduction in youth arrests and placements to Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools as well as the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center as described above in the report. From 2016 to 2018, the number of placements declined by 32 percent.

DYFS was awarded a \$150,000 Youth Justice Innovation Grant to implement a new approach to case planning within the youth justice system which addresses individual, family and environmental factors, tailors the services and programs to the individuals needs of the young person, and includes the skill building and hands on practice throughout the life of a case. This effort involves the training and technical assistance of DYFS staff in this approach.

Community Youth and Family Aids 2020 State Funding Notice

State Contract Revenue Source	2019 State Notice	2020 Adopted Budget	2020 State Notice	Chg 2019/2020 State Notice	Chg State Notice vs 2020 Budget
Youth Aids Funding	\$34,934,919	\$34,834,919	\$34,914,042	(\$20,877)	\$79,123
Early Intervention/Innovation Grant ¹	\$0	\$153,300	\$150,000	\$150,000	(\$3,300)
Youth Aids AODA	\$447,692	\$447,692	\$447,692	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Youth Aids Revenue	\$35,382,611	\$35,435,911	\$35,511,734	\$129,123	\$75,823
Children & Family Aids Allocation	\$6,890,368	\$6,890,368	\$6,890,368	\$0	\$0
Total Youth Aids Revenue	\$42,272,979	\$42,326,279	\$42,402,102	\$129,123	\$75,823


¹The State is utilizing surplus funding from Calendar Year 2018 Youth Aids to provide new Youth Justice Innovation Grants to support counties in launching innovative youth justice projects. These funds were not allocated in 2019.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director of DHHS, or her designee, to enter into a 2020 State/County contract for Community Youth and Family Aids, and any addenda to the contract.

Fiscal Impact

A fiscal note form is attached.


for
Mary Jo Meyers, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
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