

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 13, 2026

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant, Executive Director, DHHS

Subject: A report from the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute retroactive purchase of service contracts with Wisconsin Community Services (WCS), Fathers Making Progress (FMP), and UniteWI as FORGE Fatherhood grant partners

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

On September 26, 2025, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – Administration for Children and Families awarded Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services - Child Support Services (CSS) a \$4,999,995 grant for five years (\$999,999 per year) to provide FORGE (Family, Opportunity, Resilience, Grit, Engagement) Fatherhood Services for the period of September 30, 2025 to September 29, 2030.

CSS requires the assistance of multiple non-profit partners to provide these services and is requesting to contract with Wisconsin Community Services (WCS), Fathers Making Progress (FMP), and UniteWI retroactive to September 30, 2025, thru September 29, 2026 in a total amount of \$527,877 with the option to extend each of the next four grant years.

**POLICY**

Wisconsin State Statutes:	<a href="#">Wis. Stats. 59.52 (31)(c)</a>
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	<a href="#">Chapter 46</a>

**BACKGROUND**

CSS will serve as prime recipient, administrative agency and fiscal agent for the FORGE Fatherhood project. CSS received the Notice of Award on September 26, 2025, with a project start date of September 30, 2025. Since September 26, 2025, CSS has worked to select the implementation partners, finalize budgets and develop training for partner staff. Although WCS, FMP, and UniteWI have not started providing services directly to fathers yet, they have participated in monthly planning meetings and hiring and training

of staff to prepare for project implementation on April 1, 2026.

Contracts are being requested with the following providers and dollar amounts retroactive to September 30, 2025, through September 29, 2026 with the option to extend for each of the four remaining years for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$527,877:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Contract Amount</b>
FORGE Fatherhood	Wisconsin Community Services (WCS)	\$224,406
FORGE Fatherhood	Fathers Making Progress (FMP)	\$185,468
FORGE Fatherhood	UniteWI	\$118,003
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$527,877</b>

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

These contracts will support programs aimed at building and enhancing services for fathers and families in Milwaukee County, including low-income, non-custodial fathers to help establish and strengthen relationships, improve long-term economic stability, and overcome obstacles and barriers to support fathers in being stable, supportive and effective fathers.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to execute retroactive purchase of service contracts with Wisconsin Community Services (WCS), Fathers Making Progress (FMP), and UniteWI for a term of September 30, 2025, thru September 29, 2026 in a total not-to-exceed amount of \$527,877 with the option to extend each of the next four grant years as identified in the accompanying resolution.

Also, due to the timing on the federal notification of funding award and timely delivery of services specified in the grant, DHHS is seeking a waiver of Section 32.25 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances that requires sealed bids and a contract to be approved prior to services provided.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

The Department has submitted a fund transfer for \$527,877 for these contracts in the March cycle, and the costs of the contracts are fully funded by the grant.

**TERMS**

September 30, 2025-September 29, 2030

**PREPARED BY:**

Sandra Stevens, Director of Programs & Support Services, CSS

**APPROVED BY:**

  
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Shakita LaGrant, Executive Director, DHHS

**ATTACHMENTS:** None

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk