

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 21, 2026

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

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: Report from the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to recognize and allocate \$1,434,025 in revenue as part of the State's Keeping Kids Safe and Putting Families First Initiative

File Type: Action File

REQUEST

The Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to recognize revenue and allocate one-time 2026 funding from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Keeping Kids Safe and Putting Families First Initiative.

POLICY

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting authorization to execute these contracts consistent with State Statutes.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.52(31), 51.41
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BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County DHHS CYFS received one time funding in the amount of \$1,434,025 from the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families through ARPA state recovery funds to support 'Keeping Kids Safe and Putting Families First Initiative'. These funds were distributed to Milwaukee County through a contract amendment. The allocations to counties were determined using a blended methodology, to include 2026 Youth Aids methodology and the methodology developed collaboratively between DCF and the Wisconsin County Human Services Association in 2021. This methodology uses local child poverty and SNAP data as indicators for child and family need and vulnerability. The funds are to serve families involved or at risk of being involved in the child protective system and/or youth justice system in order to prevent deeper system involvement and keep youth in their homes.

The term of the grant awards is effective January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026. All funds must be incurred and reported by December 31, 2026 and no carryover of funds is allowed. Due to the nature of the funds and timing of receiving the amendment, a competitive bid for services was not able to

be completed, however, the community partners being recommended for contracts are all recognized and engaged in the work and the funds will continue to support the children, youth, and families across Milwaukee County.

The following table reflects the recommended allocation of the \$1,434,025 in Keeping Kids Safe and Putting Families First Initiative revenue to service youth involved in the justice system or those at risk of becoming involved in the justice system:

Provider	Service	Contract Amount
INPOWER Solutions, Inc.	Implementation and management of Safe Summer Initiative Collaboration with the City of Milwaukee and other community-based partners to coordinate and activate up to 10 sites across Milwaukee to promote youth engagement, wellness and healing, mentoring and relationships, recreation, workforce opportunity and support a safe community throughout the summer. The sites would run from mid-June through August 31, target youth ages 12 through 20 and their families, as well as surrounding residents of each site. The sites would operate during hours that other sites are not usually open, to include evenings and weekends, and will operate out of existing sites within Milwaukee Public Schools Twilight Centers and United Neighborhood Center of Milwaukee locations, as well local Milwaukee County Parks and other partner sites.	\$500,000
Your MOVE MKE	Provides community-based services for kids in Milwaukee, to include tutoring, hip hop chess club, access to computer lab, music studio, art related activities.	\$25,000
MERA Response Team	Provides community-based mentoring and support for youth across Milwaukee, to include crisis response and preventative care.	\$25,000
Center for Behavioral Medicine, SC	Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) training and clinical supervision to expand within the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS).	\$129,600
	CYFS Contract Subtotal:	\$679,600

Service	Description	Allocation
CYFS Intensive Monitoring Program	Provides monitoring, advocacy and resources for kids who are court ordered into the program	\$535,000
Sponsorships	Sponsorship of community anti-violence events	\$20,000
Community Violence Intervention Housing Supports	Supports short and long-term housing for individuals and families impacted by gun violence	\$14,425
Behavioral Health Services*	Youth mental health intervention and prevention	\$185,000
	Subtotal	\$754,425
	Grand Total	\$1,434,025

*The Milwaukee County Mental Health Board will need to approve the acceptance and implementation of these funds in accordance with Wis. Stat. §51.41.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

CYFS is recommending contracts that support the ongoing development of community-based programming for children, youth and their families served across CYFS and ensures a racial equity lens is utilized in all program and contract decisions. The CYFS programs enhance the quality of life for youth and their families in Milwaukee County. There are ongoing efforts to reform the youth justice system in Milwaukee County to build upon the community continuum of care, individualize all case planning and services for youth in the community whenever possible and break down the silos in the system across all entities. The CYFS is committed to transitioning youth out of correctional placements and back to Milwaukee by leveraging resources for the zero-youth corrections plan to better support young people and their families.

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 2026 CYFS contracts in a total amount of \$679,600, allocate \$185,000 to DHHS-Behavioral Health Services subject to the approval of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board (MHB) per Wis. Stat. §51.41 as well as allocate \$569,425 for the intensive monitoring program, community event sponsorships and housing supports. The effective date of the contracts would be the period of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. In addition, the resolution would authorize an administrative fund transfer to recognize expenditures and revenue associated with the grant award.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal note is attached.

TERMS

The contracts would be effective January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Executive Director
Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

PREPARED BY:

Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Hon. Carl Ashley, Chief Judge
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office