

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 13, 2024

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

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

Subject: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter into a 2025 contract with the State of Wisconsin for Social Services and Community Programs

File Type: Action Report

---

**REQUEST**

DHHS is seeking approval of its 2025 Social Services and Community Programs (State/County) contract which reflects a total of \$17,951,694 in revenue to support a variety of programs and services across the department. The county cannot receive 2025 revenues from the State until this contract is signed.

**POLICY**

Section 46.031 of the Wisconsin Statutes requires counties to execute an annual contract with the State Department of Health Services (DHS) for “Social Services and Community Programs.” The contract, also referred to as Community Aids, provides State and Federal funding for services provided by DHHS to persons with disabilities and their families, older adults as well as those in need of community support and prevention services as mandated by State and/or Federal law.

In addition, under 59.52(31), departments must obtain authorization from the County Board in order to execute contracts in excess of \$300,000.

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Wisconsin State Statutes: | 46.031, 59.52(31) |
|---------------------------|-------------------|

## **BACKGROUND**

The single largest revenue source for DHHS are State and Federal funds that are forwarded to the department under the Social Services state contract, commonly referred to as “Community Aids.” Revenues identified in this report fund programs in Aging and Disabilities Services (ADS), Behavioral Health Services (BHS) and Housing Services. Revenues related to BHS are approved separately by the Mental Health Board.

The 2025 total contract reflects an amount of \$17,951,694 which is \$378,367 higher than the 2024 State contract and \$324,309 higher than the DHHS 2025 Budget.

### ***Community Aids – Basic County Allocation (BCA)***

The Basic County Allocation (BCA) is a type of block grant provided to counties that is not earmarked to serve a specific target population. Counties can determine how much funding to provide to each of the populations eligible to be served with these funds: persons with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health issues and older adults.

The allocation is funded with 81 percent general purpose revenue (GPR), 12 percent Federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), and 7 percent Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) funds. The preliminary 2025 basic county allocation award level is based on the estimated Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 SSBG award level; the actual award level depends on action by Congress for the FFY 2025 federal budget.

The 2025 DHHS Budget includes \$5,381,228 of BCA for ADS, Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) and Housing Services. This amount is consistent with the 2025 DHHS Budget.

### ***Background on Earmarked Revenue Sources***

The State’s Social Services contract also contains revenue of \$12,570,466 that is earmarked to specific programs. Compared to the 2025 DHHS Budget, this amount is \$324,309 higher. This increase is primarily due to enhanced federal funding for Title III of the Older Americans Act (OAA) which can fluctuate year over year.

Please see the attached table which provides an itemization of all the grants under this contract.

## **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This request aligns with the goal of enhancing the County’s fiscal health and sustainability. The revenues contained in the Social Services and Community Programs Contract are a significant source of funding for DHHS allowing it to operate programs and services that are vital to our participants.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, to execute the 2025 Social Services and Community Programs contract with the State Department of Health Services, and any addenda to this contract.

## **FISCAL EFFECT**

The 2025 State Social Services and Community Programs contract which includes BCA and earmarked revenues totals \$17,951,694 and reflects a net increase of \$324,309 compared to the 2025 DHHS Budget. Similar to previous years, the 2025 contract for Social Services and Community Programs requires a match amount of \$3,565,149 which is included in the 2025 Budget. A fiscal note form is attached.

## **TERMS**

The contract is effective January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

## **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

[Shakita.LaGrant@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Shakita.LaGrant@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
[Clare.OBrien@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Clare.OBrien@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

## **PREPARED BY:**

Clare O'Brien, DHHS Budget and Policy Director

## **APPROVED BY:**

*Shakita LaGrant-McClain*  
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health & Human Services

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 – 2025 State Social Services/Community Aids Revenue Table

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Sup. Willie Johnson, Jr., Chair, Finance Committee  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County  
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office  
Maddie Fruehe, Budget and Management Analyst, SBP