



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County
CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: September 29, 2015

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: County Board File No. 15-628 confirming the Purchase of Service contracts issued on an emergency basis for the operation of the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program in the Department of Health and Human Services, and delete emergency purchase provisions found in Chapter 32 and 56 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances

I want to thank the County Board for approving contracts for the operation of the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program that will provide energy assistance to low-income households utilizing a new, more efficient and effective model of service delivery. This approach will ultimately result in better and more service for Milwaukee County's low-income households. The results of this new service delivery model are already evident. More locations and options for registration has resulted in over a 17% increase in applications compared to this time last year, as well as wait times in the 20 minute range compared to 5-6 hours in previous years.

Eliminating emergency purchase provisions, however, could put the County at risk in a future emergency. This provision has been seldom used in the last five years and serves as a safety net when a service needs to be provided quickly by a third party vendor. I ask the Board to reinstate this provision for cases of emergency.