

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 8, 2023

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 2024 contract with the State of Wisconsin for Social Services and Community Programs

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

DHHS is seeking approval of its 2024 Social Services and Community Programs (State/County) contract which reflects a total of \$17,573,327 in revenue to support a variety of programs and services across the department. The county cannot receive 2024 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)
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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.

DHHS also holds separate contracts with the State Department of Administration for the operation of the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (approved under File 23-827) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for Youth Aids – pending this December cycle.

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 2024 basic county allocation award level is based on the estimated Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 SSBG award level; the actual award level depends on action by Congress for the FFY 2024 federal budget.

The 2024 DHHS Budget includes \$5,350,644 of BCA for ADS, Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) and Housing Services. The actual State allocation is \$5,381,228 which is \$30,584 more than budgeted.

Background on Earmarked Revenue Sources

The State’s Social Services contract also contains revenue of \$12,192,099 that is earmarked to specific programs. Compared to the 2024 Budget, this amount is about \$445,942 higher in the State contract. The 2023-2025 State Budget included a permanent increase in funding primarily for Adult Protective Services, Title 3C Home Meal Programs and Alzheimer Caregiver Support. Because the increases are effective with the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and the contract with the State will not be executed until January 1, 2024, the \$445,942 includes the last six months of 2023. Therefore, the 2024 contract amount is artificially larger than it will be in subsequent years when the net increase will be about \$300,000.

DHHS-Aging and Disabilities Services is currently exploring plans to utilize these additional funds to:

- Sustain the malnutrition risk interventions in the Home Delivered Meal Program
- Expand the Tech Connect program to additional senior housing sites to address isolation

- Expand outreach efforts and respite care for family caregivers in communities of color
- Create additional positions to support APS

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 2024 Social Services and Community Programs contract with the State Department of Health Services, and any addenda to this contract.

FISCAL EFFECT

The 2024 State Social Services and Community Programs contract which includes BCA and earmarked revenues totals \$17,573,327 and reflects a net increase of \$476,526 compared to the 2024 DHHS Budget. Similar to previous years, the 2024 contract for Social Services and Community Programs requires a match amount of \$3,565,149 which is included in the 2024 Budget. A fiscal note form is attached.

TERMS

The contract is effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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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 – 2024 State Social Services/Community Aids Revenue Table

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Liz Sumner, 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
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Sr Budget and Management Analyst, DAS