

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 14, 2025

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

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Executive Director, DHHS

Subject: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter into a 2026 State contract for Community Youth and Family Aids in the amount of \$41,548,078

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

DHHS is seeking approval of its 2026 Community Youth and Family Aids contract which reflects a total of \$41,548,078 in revenue to support programs and services within Children, Youth and Family Services. The county cannot receive 2026 revenues from the State until this contract is signed.

POLICY

Section 301.031 of the Wisconsin Statutes requires counties to execute an annual contract with the State Department of Children and Families (DCF) for the “Community Youth and Family Aids Program.” This program provides State funding for County services for justice involved youth as mandated by State and/or Federal law.

In addition, under Milwaukee County Ordinance 59.52(31), departments must obtain authorization from the County Board in order to execute contracts in excess of \$300,000. The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is, therefore, requesting authorization to enter into a 2026 contract with DCF for the provision of youth justice services mandated by State law.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	301.031, 301.26
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	59.52(31)

BACKGROUND

The Community Youth and Family Aids Program, commonly referred to as “Youth Aids,” is the State’s primary means of providing counties with direct assistance to fund the cost of services of youth involved in the youth justice system. Youth Aids is derived from a mix of State and federal funding-with the primary source of funds being State General Purpose Revenue (GPR) along with a smaller portion of federal Title IV-B, subpart 1 (Child Welfare) and IV-E (out-of-home-care) funding. Youth Aids is used to fund costs in Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) such as community-based services, detention center operations, and charges from the Department of Corrections for youth placements.

Background - Youth Aids Revenue

The base Youth Aids funding amount is predicated on separate allocations contained in Wis. Stat. §301.26. The original base allocation, which is established on the initial formula for allocations to counties when Youth Aids was created in 1979, includes adjustments that are based on a variety of factors but primarily considers corrections-based metrics such as the number of Juvenile Correctional Institution (JCI) placements.

Additional Program Funding

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) funding is allocated based on each county’s Youth Aids spending on community services (defined as the amount of Youth Aids left after state charges). In addition, the Children and Families Allocation (CFA) may be used for child abuse and neglect, community-based youth justice services, and other children and families target populations.

2026 State Contract

The 2026 Youth Aids State contract amount decreased by \$442,549 compared to the 2025 contract. This reduction occurred due to the decline in Milwaukee County’s proportion of youth in correctional placements over the last three years compared to the Statewide total. In comparison to the 2026 CYFS Budget, the State contract represents a net revenue increase of \$150,147.

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

State Contract/Revenue Source	2025 State Notice	2026 State Notice	2026 Adopted Budget	2026 State Notice vs. 2025 State	2026 State Notice vs. 2026 Budget
Youth Aids Funding	\$34,652,530	\$34,209,981	\$34,059,834	(\$442,549)	\$150,147
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Youth Aids AODA	\$447,730	\$447,730	\$447,730	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Youth Aids Revenue	\$35,100,260	\$34,657,711	\$34,507,564	(\$442,549)	\$150,147
Children & Family Aids Allocation	\$6,890,367	\$6,890,367	\$6,890,367	\$0	\$0
Total Youth Aids Revenue	\$41,990,627	\$41,548,078	\$41,397,931	(\$442,549)	\$150,147

Title IV-E Funding

Another program that is reflected in the 2026 Community Youth and Family Aids contract with the State is Title IV-E which is part of the federal Social Security Act. This program provides federal reimbursement to states for the costs of children placed in foster homes or other types of out-of-home care under a court order or voluntary placement agreement. The State of Wisconsin contracts with counties to pass through federal Title IV-E reimbursement based on expenses incurred. This program is administered by Combined Court Related Operations and DHHS fiscal staff coordinates the reimbursement claim on behalf of Courts which provides \$6,036,500 in match funding.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This request aligns with the goal of enhancing the County’s fiscal health and sustainability. The revenues contained in this contract are a significant source of funding for CYFS allowing it to operate programs and services to support youth justice efforts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, to execute a 2026 State contract for Community Youth and Family Aids in the amount of \$41,548,078 and any addenda to this contract.

FISCAL EFFECT

The 2026 Community Youth and Family Aids contract for Milwaukee County of \$41,548,078 represents a net revenue increase of \$150,147 compared to the 2026 Budget of \$41,397,931. Similar to previous years, the 2026 contract for Community Youth and Family Aids requires a match amount of \$511,882 which is included in the 2026 DHHS Budget. In addition, the resolution authorizes Title IV-E funding as pass through with a match of \$6,036,500 which is required and budgeted by Combined Court Related Operations.

At the time of this report, there were no known reductions to State or federal funding. However, if this situation changes due to the federal uncertainty and there are any reductions in the final

2026 State contract that would cause a net deficit of at least \$100,000 in agency 800, DHHS will notify the County Executive, County Board, the Office of the Comptroller, and the Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance (SBP) per Milwaukee County Code of Ordinances 56.02.

A fiscal note form is attached.

TERMS

The contract is effective January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita.LaGrant@milwaukeecountywi.gov
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:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Willie Johnson Jr., Chair, Finance Committee
Liz Sumner, Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Joseph Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
Madeline Fruehe, Budget & Management Analyst, SBP