

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: May 26, 2017

TO: Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: **An informational report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing a response on TANF AODA funding**

Background

This informational report is being submitted in response to your questions related to the allocation of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Grant funding by the State Department of Health Services (DHS). This funding supports mental health services within Milwaukee County's Behavioral Health Division (BHD).

For the last several years, BHD has received \$4,394,595 in TANF/AODA funding. This funding is allocated to counties with populations of 500,000 or more per Wis. Stat. 46.48(30). Historically, Milwaukee County has been the only county that qualifies for this funding since no other county has achieved this population mark.

In 2016, however, State DHS notified BHD staff that Dane County would now be eligible for 2017 TANF/AODA funding since Dane had reached a population of 500,000. In a communication dated January 30, 2017, DHS informed BHD that our proposal was "recommended for an award." We were notified that we would be contacted by State contract administration staff to begin negotiating the terms of the contract and the final award amount. BHD has made numerous requests to DHS for updates on the TANF award, including to the Bureau of Prevention, Treatment and Recovery as well as to the Deputy Secretary. To this date, however, we have not been formally notified of a 2017 TANF award amount.

Subsequent to the January 30 communication, the Wisconsin Legislative Council, on behalf of several Milwaukee-area legislators, notified DHS that Milwaukee County is still the only county eligible for funding under this grant. Although Dane County is currently at the 500,000 population mark, it had not yet reached this population level as of the last federal census back in 2010. Population is defined in State Statute as being measured by the most recent regular or special federal census (Wis. Stats. 990.01(29)).

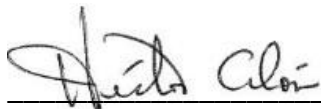
Recently, DHHS was notified of the State's decision to withdraw its award of funding to Dane County.

Please see responses to your specific questions below:

- **What communications did the Administration initiate with state agency officials or state legislators at this stage?** BHD Administrator, Mike Lappen, met with Representative Joe Sanfelippo on March 30, 2017 to discuss the TANF issue. At that time, Rep. Sanfelippo indicated that he was aware of the issue because of Mr. Lappen's email describing the challenges to AODA residential funding. Further, Rep. Sanfelippo was questioning DHS' decision to allocate funding to Dane County since Dane was below a population of 500,000 based on the preceding census.
- **Did the Department of Health and Human Services utilize the process outlined by the RFP to ask DHS why Dane County was made newly eligible to receive funding under the program?** During 2016, DHS indicated that part of the funding would be awarded to Dane County. Once we were made aware that it was likely that Dane County would be awarded some of the funds, we went into the application process presuming we would not be allocated the full award and wanted to be cognizant of that throughout our application and planning for 2017.
- **Has DHHS submitted a formal protest regarding the RFP results or does it plan to?** DHHS BHD has not submitted a formal protest regarding the RFP results. BHD will consider submitting a formal document if the awarded amount does not represent the full TANF award.

Recommendation

This report is informational and no action is required.



Héctor Colón, Director

Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, County Board
Lisa Wozny, Budget Analyst - DAS
Erica Hayden, Research & Policy Analyst – Comptroller's Office