

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: November 13, 2017

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

FROM: Jeanne Dorff, Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by: Geri Lyday, Disabilities Services Division Administrator

SUBJECT: **A report from the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requesting authorization to establish a risk reserve for the Children's Community Options Program (CCOP)**

Issue

Per Wisconsin Stat. § 46.272(13)(f), counties are permitted to create a risk reserve for unspent Children's Community Options Program (CCOP) funding in an amount not to exceed 10 percent of a county's total allocation.

Background

Effective January 1, 2016, the funding for one of the children's programs previously operated by DSD, the Family Support Program, merged with the portion of Community Options Program allocated to children to form the Children's Community Options Program (CCOP). CCOP provides support and services to children living at home or in the community who have one or more of the following long-term disabilities: intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities or severe emotional disturbances. CCOP is funded by State General Purpose Revenue (GPR) and covered services include home modifications, respite care, adaptive equipment, transportation, care management and communication aids.

The DHHS Disabilities Services Division (DSD) operates CCOP and supports a current caseload of approximately 500 children. For 2017, DSD received \$930,182 in CCOP funding from the State Department of Health Services (DHS).

One of the allowable uses of a CCOP reserve is to defray the cost of the Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) Program. The CLTS program is funded through the Federal Medicaid Waiver programs and State Community Options Program. Similar to CCOP, CLTS emphasizes keeping kids with significant disabilities living at home with their parents as independently as possible.

Proposal

DSD is proposing to place any unspent 2017 balance remaining at year end into this risk reserve account. Per Wisconsin Stat. §46.272(13)(f), the annual amount of a county's expenditure that may be deposited into a risk reserve fund may not exceed 10 percent of a county's most recent total allocation. Based on Wis. Stats. 46.272, Milwaukee County could place up to \$93,018 in the reserve based on its 2017 allocation of \$930,182. In addition, the risk reserve must be set up in a separate interest-bearing account in a financial institution that is authorized to do business under State and Federal law. The total amount of the risk reserve, including interest, may not exceed 15% of the county's most recent allocation.

The purpose of the reserve would be to maximize the availability of services within the CLTS Program. Counties can utilize CCOP funding as the local match to draw down Federal revenue to fund services for additional waiver enrollees.

Recommendation

The Interim Director of the Department of Health and Human Services respectfully requests the establishment of a non-lapsing risk reserve for the Children's Community Options Program (CCOP) in the Disabilities Services Division. The County would create a "reserve" within the General Fund and open a separate interest-bearing bank account specifically for this purpose.

Fiscal Impact

Approval of the recommended action would have no property tax levy impact. A fiscal note form is attached.



Jeanne Dorff, Interim Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive, Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Peggy West, Chair, Finance and Audit Committee
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, Department of Administrative Services
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