

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: April 29, 2026

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

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Executive Director, DHHS

Subject: A report from the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter into community-based contracts funded by a State violence prevention grant awarded to Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS)

File Type: Action File

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**REQUEST**

The Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to execute several contract funded by a State Department of Administration Violence Prevention grant awarded to Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS).

**POLICY**

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to execute these contracts.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.52(31)
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**BACKGROUND**

CYFS applied for and was awarded a State Violence Prevention (SVP) grant in the amount of \$1,573,082 for 2026 under category B: Evidence-Based Violence Intervention and Outreach Programs. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding to support, replicate, and expand effective, evidence-based or evidence-informed violence reduction initiatives, particularly in communities disproportionately impacted by violence. The grant supports community violence intervention efforts and community-based partners in Milwaukee County using State allocated ARPA funding. This funding must be spent by the end of 2026. CYFS will continue contracting with established partners embedded in the County's violence prevention infrastructure, as well as building new partnerships to support all violence prevention efforts across Milwaukee County.

CYFS is recommending contracts that support the ongoing development of community violence intervention efforts and programming for youth and their families served across CYFS and ensures a racial equity lens is utilized in all program and contract decisions.

The CYFS programs enhance the quality of life for youth and their families in Milwaukee County. There are ongoing efforts to reform the youth justice system in Milwaukee County to build upon the community continuum of care, individualize all case planning and services for youth in the community whenever possible and break down the silos in the system across all entities.

The funding must be spent by December 31, 2026. Given the tight timeframe, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was not undertaken. Partner agencies and allocations were determined based on their previous experience and current work within youth justice, community violence intervention and youth engagement. Each agency plays a unique role within the larger violence intervention and prevention ecosystem.

The following contracts totaling \$1,140,580 are being proposed by CYFS:

- **\$200,000 – Carlson Consultants LLC ~~CC-We Adapt~~**: This Peace in Practice Provider Readiness Program will provide 24 individual community-based organizations within CYFS in order to learn and apply DHS 34 and 36 within Comprehensive Community Services (CCS).
- **\$136,000 - Milwaukee Bar Association Foundation, Inc. ~~Milwaukee Bar Association~~**: Contract for the Community Justice Counsel (CJC) Director who is responsible to convene and coordinate efforts with multi-sector leaders and launching a Youth Justice Steering Committee to improve coordination and reduce the number of youth involved in the justice system.
- **\$255,000 – Milwaukee Bucks Foundation, Inc.**: Expand the Rotational Program supporting skill-building, employment, and reentry for justice-involved individuals and a violence prevention campaign.
- **\$414,580 - Milwaukee Turners**: Milwaukee Turners will serve as a convener and fiscal agent for the Holistic Violence Intervention Initiative (\$219,200) and contract with community-based partners to include Fathers Making Progress (\$50,380), HIR Wellness Institute (\$50,000), Helping Kids Better Themselves (\$45,000), and Ana Paula Soares Lynch (\$50,000).
- **\$135,000 - INPOWER Solutions, LLC**: Expansion of positive community-based, youth driven events, including Grinding to Glory and Better Ways to Cope for youth and CVI staff (\$100,000), as well as the Youth employment services through the Grow Rich Initiative (\$35,000).

Finally, the remaining \$432,502 in grant funds of \$1,573,082 is being utilized to support the following costs: \$37,610 in staff time, \$50,000 in crisis housing support, \$198,000 in budgeted youth employment contracts, \$25,000 for professional development workshops for contracted CVI staff, \$60,000 in fee-for-service contracts for culturally responsive programming in secure detention, and approximately \$61,892 in indirect costs associated with the grant.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to execute contracts totaling \$1,140,580 for the services identified in the accompanying resolution. The effective date of the contracts is 6/1/2026-12/31/2026.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

The contracts are 100% funded through the State violence prevention grant awarded to CYFS.

**TERMS**

The contracts would be effective June 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Executive Director  
Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

**PREPARED BY:**

Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

**APPROVED BY:**

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Executive Director

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Hon. Carl Ashley, Chief Judge  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office