

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 13, 2026

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

From: Shakita LaGrant, Executive Director, DHHS

Subject: A report from the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute retroactive professional service agreements with Sojourner Family Peace Center and AMTC & Associates as FORGE Fatherhood grant partners

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

On September 26, 2025, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – Administration for Children and Families awarded Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services - Child Support Services (CSS) a \$4,999,995 grant for five years (\$999,999 per year) to provide FORGE (Family, Opportunity, Resilience, Grit, Engagement) Fatherhood Services for the period of September 30, 2025 through September 29, 2030.

CSS requires the assistance of multiple non-profit partners to provide these services. CSS is requesting to contract with Sojourner Family Peace Center and AMTC & Associates retroactive to September 30, 2025, through September 29, 2026 in a total amount up to \$118,325 with the option to extend each of the next four grant years.

POLICY

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis. Stats. 59.52 (31)(c)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Chapter 56

BACKGROUND

CSS will serve as prime recipient, administrative agency and fiscal agent for the FORGE Fatherhood project. CSS received the Notice of Award on September 26, 2025, with a project start date of September 30, 2025. Since September 26, 2025, CSS has worked to select the implementation partners, finalize budgets, and develop training for partner staff. Sojourner Family Peace Center has participated in planning meetings with CSS and will update the program's family violence protocol to support victims and perpetrators of family violence and provide comprehensive training to all staff on the updated protocol prior to full project implementation on April 1, 2026.

AMTC & Associates has participated in weekly and monthly planning meetings with CSS and will provide performance measurement and continuous quality improvement services, training, and ongoing technical assistance to CSS and its partners.

Contracts are being requested with the following providers and dollar amounts retroactive to September 30, 2025, through September 29, 2026 with the option to extend for each of the four remaining years for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$118,325:

Service	Provider	Contract Amount
FORGE Fatherhood Performance Measurement/Quality Improvement Services	AMTC & Associates	\$112,825
FORGE Fatherhood Training	Sojourner Family Peace Center	\$5,500
	Total	\$118,325

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This contract will support programs aimed at building and enhancing services for fathers and families in Milwaukee County, including low-income, non-custodial fathers to help establish and strengthen relationships, improve long-term economic stability, and overcome obstacles and barriers to support fathers in being stable, supportive and effective fathers.

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 retroactive professional services contracts effective September 30, 2025, through September 29, 2026 in a total not-to-exceed amount of \$118,325 with the option to extend each of the next four grant years as identified in the accompanying resolution.

Due to the timing on the federal notification of funding award and timely delivery of services specified in the grant, DHHS also seeks a waiver of Section 56.30 (8) and (9) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances that requires a contract to be approved prior to services provided.

FISCAL EFFECT

The Department has submitted a fund transfer for \$118,325 for these contracts in the March cycle, and the costs of the contracts are fully funded by the grant.

TERMS

September 30, 2025-September 29, 2030

PREPARED BY:

Sandra Stevens, Director of Programs & Support Services, CSS

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant, Executive Director, DHHS

ATTACHMENTS: None.

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk