

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 8, 2023

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

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter into a 2024 State contract for Community Youth and Family Aids in the amount of \$41,927,947

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

DHHS is seeking approval of its 2024 Community Youth and Family Aids contract which reflects a total of \$41,927,947 in revenue to support programs and services within the Children, Youth and Family Services Division (formerly Division of Youth and Family Services). The county cannot receive 2024 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 2024 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. This revenue is used to fund costs in DHHS Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS).

### ***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. The county’s proportion of placements factored into the 2024 contract compared to the Statewide total declined from 58 percent in 2018 to 51 percent in 2020 which impacted the amount of revenue for 2024.

### ***Additional Program Funding***

Alcohol & 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.

### ***2024 Contract***

The 2024 Youth Aids contract amount decreased by \$384,340 compared to the 2023 contract due to the decline in Milwaukee County’s proportion of JCI placements compared to the Statewide total. Because DHHS met with DCF fiscal staff ahead of the submittal of its budget, the majority of the decrease was already incorporated into the 2024 CYFS Budget. As shown in the chart below, the 2024 contract for Milwaukee County of \$41,927,947 represents a net revenue decrease of \$59,424 compared to the 2024 Budget of \$41,987,371.

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

<b>State Contract/Revenue Source</b>	<b>2023 State Notice</b>	<b>2024 State Notice</b>	<b>2024 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>2024 State Notice vs. 2023 State Notice</b>	<b>2024 State Notice vs. 2024 Budget</b>
Youth Aids Funding	\$34,974,190	\$34,589,850	\$34,649,274	(\$384,340)	(\$59,424)
Youth Aids AODA	\$447,730	\$447,730	\$447,730	\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal Youth Aids Revenue</b>	<b>\$35,421,920</b>	<b>\$35,037,580</b>	<b>\$35,097,004</b>	<b>(\$384,340)</b>	<b>(\$59,424)</b>
Children & Family Aids Allocation	\$6,890,367	\$6,890,367	\$6,890,367	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Youth Aids Revenue</b>	<b>\$42,312,287</b>	<b>\$41,927,947</b>	<b>\$41,987,371</b>	<b>(\$384,340)</b>	<b>(\$59,424)</b>

**Title IV-E Funding**

Another program that is reflected in the 2024 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 \$4,356,000 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 2024 State contract for Community Youth and Family Aids in the amount of \$41,927,947 and any addenda to this contract.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

The 2024 Community Youth and Family Aids contract for Milwaukee County of \$41,927,947 represents a net revenue decrease of \$59,424 compared to the 2024 Budget of \$41,987,371. Similar to previous years, the 2024 contract for Community Youth and Family Aids requires a match amount of \$511,882 which is included in the 2024 Budget. In addition, the resolution

authorizes Title IV-E funding as pass through with a match of \$3,965,421 which is required and budgeted by Combined Court Related Operations.

A fiscal note form is attached.

**TERMS**

The contract is effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

[Shakita.LaGrant@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Shakita.LaGrant@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
[Clare.OBrien@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto: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. Liz Sumner, Chair, Finance Committee  
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County  
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office  
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Sr Budget and Management Analyst, DAS