



RESOLUTION # 53-2/21

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 2-33

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 29
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 0
Vote Req:
Other Action:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 0

RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING

WHEREAS, La Crosse County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to 118,000 La Crosse County residents including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

WHEREAS, our children's well-being, economic security and success in life are enhanced by parents who provide financial and emotional support; and

WHEREAS, County child support agencies collected \$935 Million in child support during 2019 and established 98,405 health insurance orders for Wisconsin children; and

WHEREAS, La Crosse County's Child Support Agency provides services to children as well as custodial and non-custodial parents that reduce childhood poverty rates, establish parental rights and promote the involvement of both parents in the lives of their children; and

WHEREAS, the economic security and social service programs provided by La Crosse Child Support Agency are needed by Wisconsin children and families now more than ever due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program has fallen from 2nd in the nation for collecting current support to 5th; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's decreased performance has led to the state losing out on an estimated \$70,000 in potential federal incentive payments between Calendar Year 2019 and 2020; and

WHEREAS, an abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding. Further drops in performance would result in additional reductions to federal funding for Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Decreased federal funding results in less funding for La Crosse County's child support agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services and reduced child support collections; and

WHEREAS, New state investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates roughly \$2 in federal matching funds; and

RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of \$6.20 in support for every dollar invested in the program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$4 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2021-23 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$7.7 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing La Crosse County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.

FISCAL NOTE:

Date: 2/10/21
[Signature]
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 2-10-21
[Signature]
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	_____	_____	_____	Requested By: Jill Sherry Date Requested: January 15, 2021 Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Fin. Director	_____	_____	_____	
Corp. Counsel	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____	
Board Chair	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 18 Day of February, 2021

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE
I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 18th day of February 2021.

[Signature]
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk