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For Immediate Release
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Governor Evers' State Budget Invests in Wisconsin Counties Proposal Acknowledges Importance of County Government Services

Governor Evers 2021-2023 State Biennial Budget, as announced Tuesday night, acknowledges the importance of county government in the lives of everyday Wisconsin citizens, and provides tools for those on the ground to effectively serve, according to the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA).

"This budget, as introduced by Governor Evers, recognizes that counties are critical to delivering local programs and services," said WCA Executive Director Mark D. O'Connell. "These investments will empower counties to be more effective and operate at an even higher level."

2021-2023 State Biennial Budget investments in counties include:

- 0.5% sales tax option for counties, subject to voter referendum
- 2% increase in 2021 and 2% increase in 2022 in Shared Revenue
- 2% General Transportation Aids (GTA) increase in each year of the biennium
- \$75 million for reauthorization of the Multimodal Supplement Program (MLS Program)
- 2.5% increase in General Transit Aids
- \$3 million for county GIS grants and \$7.5 million in the second year of the biennium for county 911 grants
- 10-year renewal of the stewardship program
- \$12.7 million for full funding of County Conservation Staffing and Cost Sharing Grants
- \$15 million in increased TAD funding
- \$10 million in increased funding for local health departments
- Significant investment in mental health crisis services, including emergency detention
- \$1.5 million for child welfare worker training
- \$11.8 million in additional funding for county child support agencies
- \$10 million increase in each calendar year for the Children and Family Aids appropriation

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- Grant program for community based juvenile services
- Expansion of dementia care specialists statewide
- \$18.8 million increase in youth aids for elimination of the serious juvenile offender program
- \$10 million sum sufficient appropriation to counties for responsibility of 17-year old juvenile offenders
- \$200 million broadband investment
- \$300,000 annual broadband grant to local governments
- Reimbursement to counties for special election costs

“The list of county investments in the Governor’s budget is a strong start to the budget process,” said O’Connell. “WCA looks forward to working with Governor Evers and the Legislature to ensure critical investments in county government.”

The Wisconsin Counties Association represents the interests of county governments at both the state and federal levels and is located in Madison, Wisconsin. Learn more at www.wicounties.org and find WCA on Facebook, Twitter (@WisCounties) and LinkedIn (WCA: Wisconsin Counties Association).

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