



Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association

For Immediate Release

February 17, 2021

Contact: Pamela Pipkin, WCSEA President: 608-269-8809

Counties Applaud Investment in Child Support Program

The Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association (WCSEA) applauds Governor Evers for providing an additional \$4 million per year to county child support agencies in his 2021-23 state budget in recognition of the important role they play in creating economic security for Wisconsin families. Child support is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs in the country, representing roughly 42% of household income for custodial families living in poverty.

“Child support is the unsung hero of economic security programs. Wisconsin children and families need our services now more than ever due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19,” said WCSEA President Pamela Pipkin. “We thank Governor Evers for acknowledging the importance of the child support program during this critical time.”

Wisconsin county child support agencies collected more than \$914 million in support during 2019, 97% of which went directly to families, and established health insurance coverage for 98,405 children. However, county child support agencies do more than just collect support payments—they establish parental rights for fathers, secure health insurance for children, help parents find employment and connect families to other needed services.

“Without additional state funding, county child support agencies will not be able to keep up with current caseloads,” said Pipkin. “If a child support payment doesn’t make it to a child, that means they lose access to financial support that helps meet their basic needs like food, clothing and education.”

To date, 37 counties have passed resolutions in support of Governor Evers’ proposed funding increase. WCSEA looks forward to working with the Governor, Department of Children and Families and the Legislature throughout the budget process.

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