

**State Joint Finance Committee**

**March 28, 2001**

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**3. Community Aids & Youth Aids**

- Proposed budget - Reduction in Community Aids of \$1.2 million per year, no increase in Youth Aids over the biennium and 11% and 3% rate increases in juvenile correction facilities.
- Impact on Eau Claire County - Cost to continue present programs in Human Services Department will increase by at least 3%/year. Court ordered placements are uncontrollable costs. Rate increases will cost the county an additional \$30,000 in 2001 and \$68,000 in 2002 (based upon current population). With no new funds from the state side of the partnership, overall additional costs to Eau Claire County taxpayers will be approximately \$400,000 in 2002 and \$800,000 in 2003. See accompanying chart (page 5, supplemental data).
- Recommendation - Community Aids → replace federal Social Services Block Grant funds and provide 3% increase in each year of biennium. Youth Aids → provide for state payment of out-of-home placement costs and allow counties to invest savings in early intervention services. Reduce daily rates charged to counties for juveniles placed in JCI's.

**4. Transportation Aids**

- Proposed budget - Increase General Transportation Aids for counties 5.4% in 2002 and 3.7% in 2003. Increase Local Road Improvement Program funds by 2.7% in 2002 and 3.0% in 2003.
- Impact on Eau Claire County - The proposed increases in funding will have a positive impact on County Road maintenance efforts in Eau Claire County. The increases will assist in matching inflationary cost increases plus cost increases in petroleum based products used in road construction and maintenance.
- Recommendation - Support the proposed budgetary increases in Transportation Aids.

**Additional Comments:**

**State Public Defender**

- Proposed Budget - Decrease State Public Defender budget by 5%.
- Impact on Eau Claire County - The proposed cuts will result in higher costs to Eau Claire County taxpayers due to: less SPD staff attorneys to provide services, reduced compensation rates to private attorneys which results in more court appointed attorneys paid by Eau Claire County. Consider the following: Court appointed attorney costs have increased in Eau Claire County from \$121,357 in 1997 to \$219,175 in 2000, an 80.6% increase in four years. Increasing demand coupled with hopelessly out of date eligibility thresholds continue to exacerbate this issue; a 5% decrease would only increase costs to counties.
- Recommendation - Increase SPD budget by 3% per year of biennium and revise eligibility thresholds for indigent population so SPD represents individuals vs. court appointed attorneys, thereby reducing skyrocketing growth in county costs.

**State Joint Finance Committee**

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**Property Tax Exemption for Air Carrier's Hub Facility**

- Support this proposal in budget bill. This proposed exemption would have a great economic impact on the Chippewa Valley due to potential expansion of one of the carriers at the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport if passed.

**Smart Growth**

- Support proposals to increase funds available to local units of government in grant format to achieve compliance with smart growth mandate (increase in Register of Deeds recording fee).

**County Collection of Outstanding Fines & Forfeitures**

- Proposal: Change current state/local allocation of revenue from fines and forfeitures to provide greater incentive for counties to pursue outstanding fine and forfeiture debt. Eau Claire County currently has approximately \$2 million outstanding fines and forfeitures. The state and local governments are receiving no revenues from this debt. If the ratio were to be changed to a 50/50 split for outstanding debt, potentially more revenue can be collected, benefiting both the state and local governments.

**W-2 Community Reinvestment Funds**

- Current law requires all W-2 Community Reinvestment Funds must be expended by December 31, 2001 and specifies eligible services that can be funded with W-2 funds.
- Proposal: Extend deadline to December 31, 2002 and provide greater flexibility for W-2 agencies to utilize funds to benefit W-2 population. This proposal will benefit Eau Claire County citizens by allowing the Eau Claire County Department of Human Services to contract with service agencies to provide additional programs for the county's W-2 population.

Eau Claire County

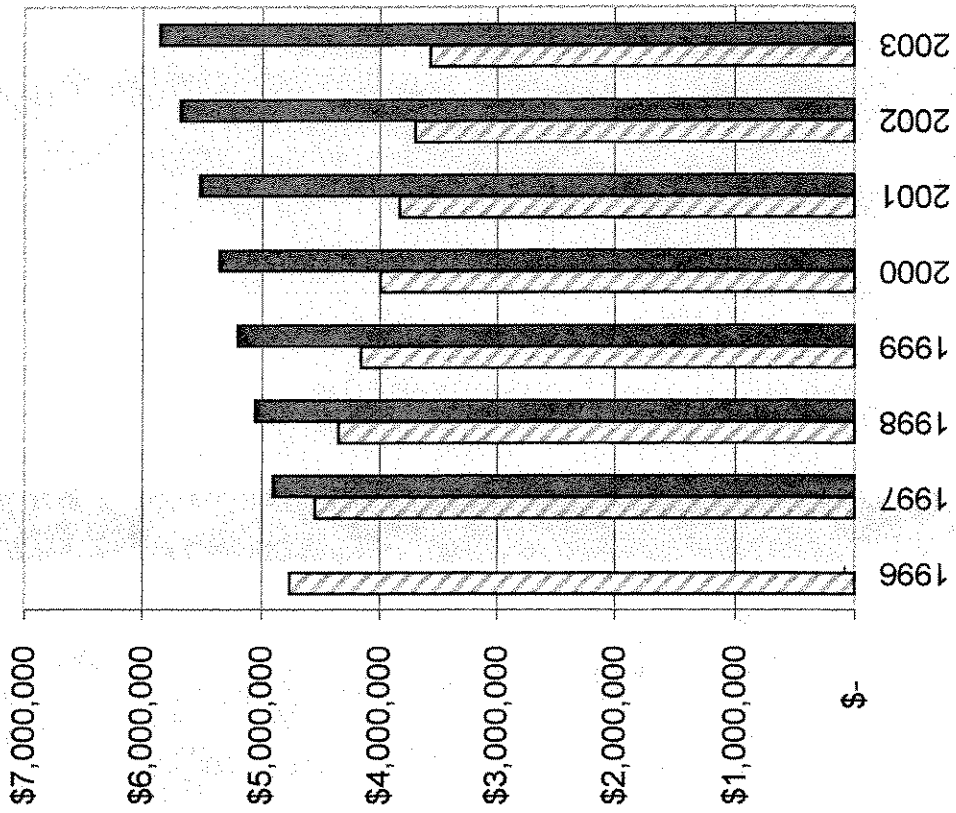
Joint Finance Committee Hearing  
CVTC / Phillips Campus

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Supplemental Data  
State/Local Partnerships

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# EAU CLAIRE COUNTY STATE SHARED REVENUE HISTORY 1996-2003



Legend:   
 Shared Revenue   
 Shared Revenue +3%

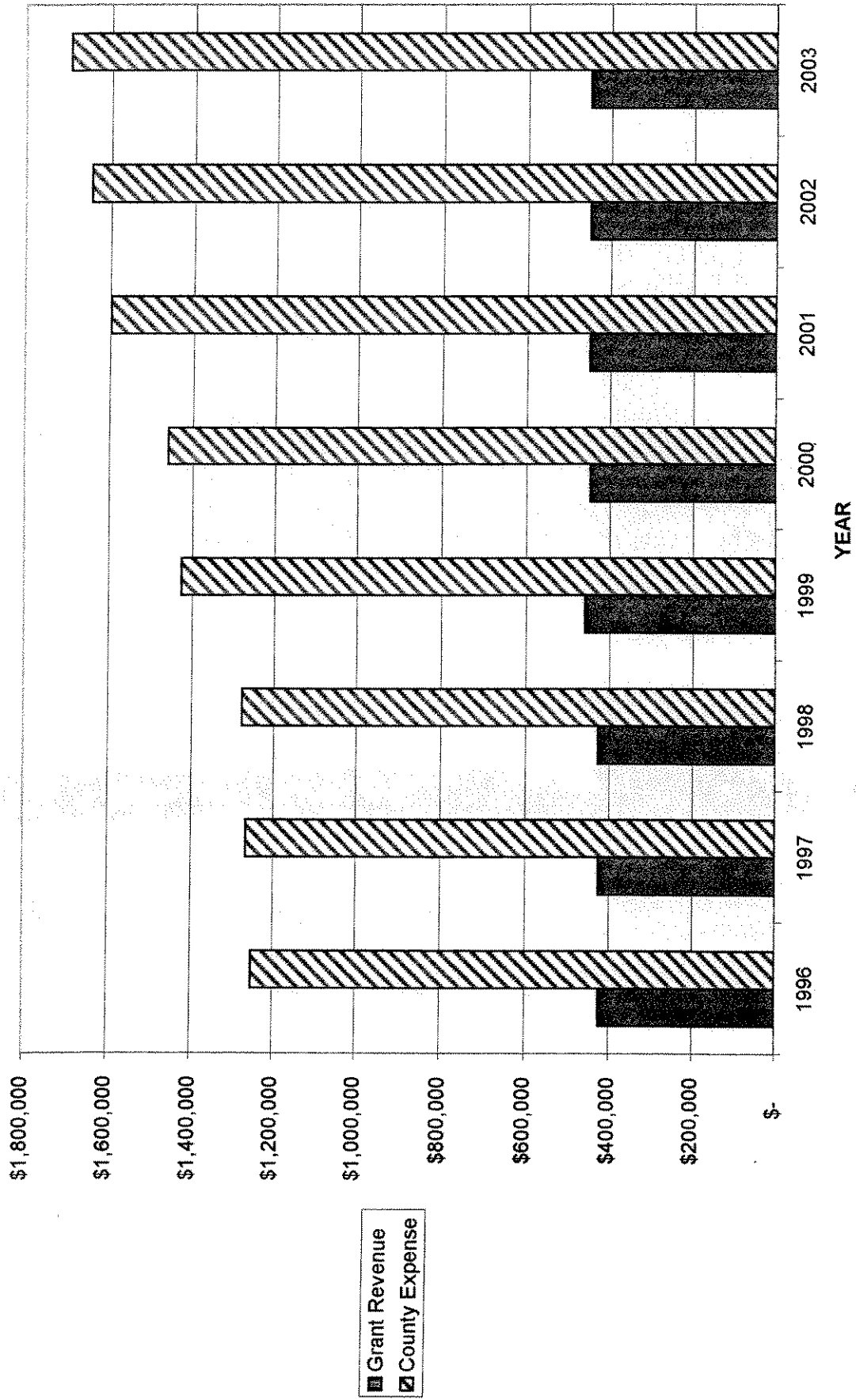
## EAU CLAIRE COUNTY STATE SHARED REVENUE HISTORY

YEAR	SHARED REVENUE	% DECREASE	SHARED REV. + 3% ANN. INCREASE
1996	\$ 4,759,942		
1997	\$ 4,545,006	-4.51%	\$ 4,902,740
1998	\$ 4,345,586	-4.39%	\$ 5,049,822
1999	\$ 4,159,891	-4.27%	\$ 5,201,317
2000	\$ 3,991,661	-4.04%	\$ 5,357,356
2001	\$ 3,831,581	-4.01%	\$ 5,518,077
2002 est	\$ 3,697,376	-3.50%	\$ 5,683,619
2003 est	\$ 3,567,959	-3.50%	\$ 5,854,127

**Note: Inflationary increases from 1996-2001 has averaged approx. 3%/year equalling 18% increase. Over the same time frame, Shared Revenue has decreased over 21%, creating a gap of 39%. The County Board then must shift the burden to the tax levy.**

**2002-2003 Budget Proposal: No new funds for County Shared Revenue will result in the same continued effect as above. Revenue continues to decrease and real costs continue to increase ==> the gap continues to grow and the County Board shifts more of the burden to the tax levy.**

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY STATE COURT GRANT REVENUE VS. EXPENDITURES 1996-2003



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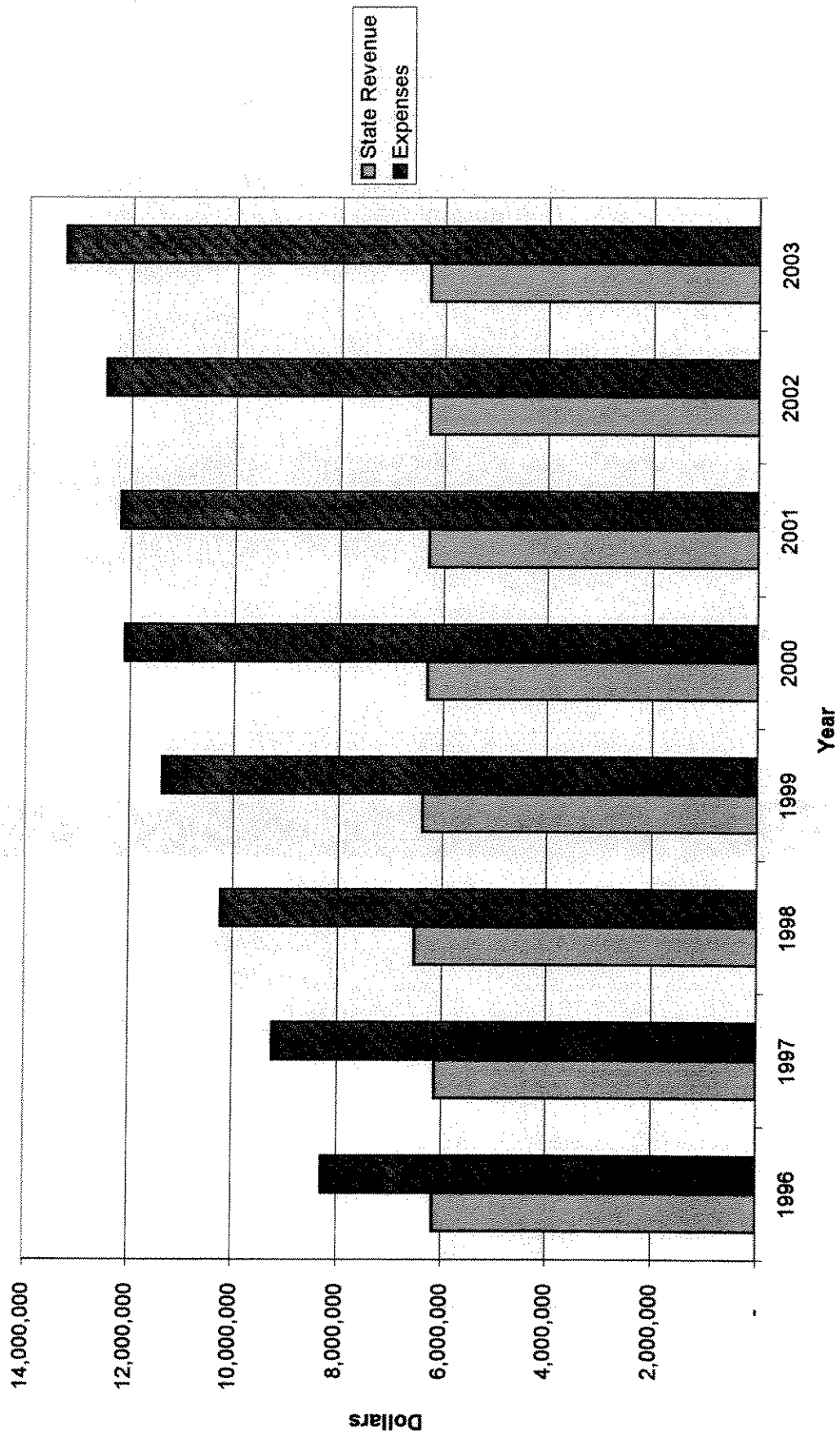
**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY STATE COURT GRANTS HISTORY 1996-2000**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Grant Revenue</b>	<b>County Cost</b>
1996	\$ 424,119	\$ 1,252,214
1997	\$ 425,060	\$ 1,266,779
1998	\$ 426,093	\$ 1,276,943
1999	\$ 458,679	\$ 1,425,721
2000	\$ 447,375	\$ 1,458,020
2001	\$ 450,000	\$ 1,597,678
2002 est	\$ 450,000	\$ 1,645,608
2003 est	\$ 450,000	\$ 1,694,976

**Note: County costs include Circuit Courts and Clerk of Court budget expenditures.**

**Note: 2002-2003 revenue assumes no increase in state revenue. 2002-2003 cost assumes 3% increase in operational costs; increase in staffing would increase costs above 3%.**

**Eau Claire County Department of Human Services  
Summary of Community Aids and Youth Aids**





Eau Claire County Department of Human Services  
Community Aids and Youth Aids State Revenues

Year	State Revenue	Expenses	
1996	6,176,336	8,288,238	
1997	6,142,549	9,235,025	
1998	6,544,610	10,222,329	
1999	6,388,532	11,360,769	
2000	6,311,150	12,111,150	estimates
2001	6,297,716	12,197,716	estimates
2002	6,293,044	12,493,044	estimates
2003	6,293,044	13,293,044	estimates

Years 2001 - 2003 are estimates based on projections as of March 27, 2001.

Joint Finance Committee  
Public Hearing on 2001 - 2003 State Budget  
03/28/01

Members of the Joint Finance Committee,

My name is Katie Berg. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my concerns about the Governor's proposed Educational Budget. My husband and I have two children, one in elementary and one in middle school. My husband and I take our children's education very seriously. We have established a routine during the week in which our children's homework comes first before TV or any other extra activities. We are all involved in PTA, I am currently the President of Sherman Elementary PTA, and I am active in the Eau Claire PTA Council. I have also served on the Wi PTA Board as Health and Welfare Commissioner and Regional Advisor. I have learned that education is a collaborative effort between the child, parents, teachers, school administrators and you, the elected officials who help to determine how schools will be funded. After viewing the Governor's proposed budget, I feel ashamed for the voters, the taxpayers, the citizens of Wisconsin. My husband and I are doing our part, our children are doing well in school and are doing their part. Through PTA, we have collaboration with school administrators and teachers. Now I am asking you to do your part. All I'm asking is that you use a common sense approach to these issues.

**Special Education-** Common sense tells you that if you take funds away from regular education to fund the high cost of students with special needs, you are going to pit one group against the other, further widening the gap that so many people have worked so hard to close. I am in favor of the state reimbursing districts at the following levels:

1) 90% of the costs of services for a student who has a disability that is incurred above an amount equal to three times the state average costs per student. 2) The aid for other special education costs should be set at 50% sum sufficient level. 3) The increased special education funding would be distributed outside the 2/3 aid formula to prevent actual reductions in aid to property poor districts.

**Revenue Caps** - Common sense tells you that increasing the per pupil rate to \$220, doesn't even make up for the inflationary adjustment that the proposal would like to eliminate. As an advocate for all children, I would like to see all children succeed, to not let one child fall between the cracks, the revenue limits are allowing entire schools to fall. I'm in favor of an increase of revenue limit flexibility, 1% solution. This would give the school districts the option to approve, through a 2/3 vote of its School Board, additional revenue per member up to one percent of the state average. If the district chooses, the additional revenue would be funded through 2/3 aid.

**Milwaukee Tax Vouchers** - I would like to ask you, where is the common sense in trying to make public schools accountable by taking money away from their districts to pay for children to go to private schools where there is no accountability? It is outrageous that \$100,000 to \$500,000 will come from our school district alone, to fund this program that is only offered to schools in Milwaukee. Private schools do not have to follow the same accountability rules as public schools, and they can pick and choose who they want enrolled in their schools. Do you seriously think they would be willing to enroll children with special needs, whose education is more costly? This is a disaster waiting to happen and will set a new standard for discrimination.

**Sage** - Finally, a program that works, and the Governor wants to lower the eligibility criteria. Once again, common sense tells you that you should be supporting and expanding programs that work, not cutting back on them.

As you can see, I am very concerned about my children's education and their future, as well as you should be. You are helping to mold the minds of the future surgeon that could be performing open heart surgery on your granddaughter. We are investing in the education of the person who is going to find the cure for Parkinson's disease, and who knows, my child could some day, be sitting in your seat, determining your fate as a Senior Citizen.

Thank You again for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Katie Berg

Katie Berg  
1829 Silvermine Dr.  
Eau Claire Wi 54703  
715-839-9996



COMMENTS BY ALAN L. HOETING

FALL CREEK, WI

715-877-3460

MAR 28, 2001

AT WI BUDGET HEARING SEN. DAVE ZEIN  
ET AL

SUGGESTED SAVINGS IN 2001-03 BUDGET

1. ABOLISH SCHOOL VOUCHER PROGRAM
2. ABOLISH WI GRANT PROGRAMS FOR  
BUILDING FIREHOUSES, WATER TOWERS  
AND 2/3 FUNDING OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS
3. ABOLISH FUNDING FOR DEPT OF COMMERCE  
BUSINESS INCENTIVES TO BRIBE BUSINESSES  
TO MOVE FROM OTHER CITIES/STATES
4. ABOLISH ETHANOL SUPPORT PROGRAM  
83 MILLION TO BUILD PLANT + 2M/YR FOR 5 YR
5. REVIEW STATE USE OF 8<sup>+</sup> AIRPLANES  
AND SELL 5<sup>+</sup> PLANES
6. ABOLISH STATE MANDATED RECYCLING  
PROGRAM
7. FREEZE WI GASOLINE TAX AT  
CURRENT LEVEL. DOT IS PAIVING  
PRIME AGR. LAND AND DESTROYING  
BEAUTY OF WI FOR DEVELOPMENT
8. DON'T GRANT ANY MORE TAX  
EXEMPTIONS FOR TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT  
ZONES, AIRLINES, AMTRAK, ETC
9. RE. STANLEY PRISON - GET TOUGH!  
IF COST WAS \$40 M., OFFER TO  
BUY AT \$40 M + 20% PROFIT +  
2 YEARS INTEREST TOTALLY @ \$56 million  
IF DOMINION DOESN'T ACCEPT OFFER  
TAKE BY EMINENT DOMAIN OR  
AUTHORIZE A COUPLE OF URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN MILWAUKEE,  
RACINE OR WHEREVER.



# Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, Inc.

One Point Place, Suite 101 • Madison, Wisconsin 53719

Phone (608) 833-1833 • Fax (608) 833-7179

WLWCA Homepage: <http://www.execpc.com/~wlwca>

*Representing Wisconsin's 72 County Land Conservation Committees and Departments,  
the primary local delivery system of natural resource programs*

## Overview

Counties receive approximately \$26 million dollars annually to implement state and local soil and water resource management programs. Through Land and Water Resource Management Plans, county Land Conservation Committees (LCC) and Land Conservation Departments (LCD) provide the vital link for getting conservation on Wisconsin's farms and fields. It is largely due to local efforts that Wisconsin remains at the forefront of the nation in terms of conserving natural resources in an effective and common sense manner.

## DNR Budget

We support the DNR budget request of \$22.4M bonding revenue. These funds are needed to help counties implement existing priority watershed projects and uphold contractual commitments with landowners to install conservation practices on their farms and fields. Additionally, funding would be used for rural and urban competitive nonpoint source projects.

## DATCP Budget

We support DATCP request for \$7 million bonding revenue. This money is allocated to counties who, in turn, distribute it to Wisconsin farmers and other landowners applying soil and water resource management practices.

## The need for increased SEG or GPR dollars

Many of the most effective agricultural practices to combat nonpoint water pollution cannot be cost-shared with bond dollars, as bond dollars must be used to install structures. While we recognize the tight situation with GPR dollars, somehow we have to address this as a performance standards come on-line.

## Concern over SEG to GPR funding for nonpoint pollution programs

The Governor's budget severs the link between the use of a portion of the title transfer fee and funding of nonpoint pollution programs. We do not think that link should be ended. There is a direct link between motor vehicles and nonpoint pollution. Construction for highways and parking lots poses a threat of loading our waters with more sediment. The cost of permanent, nonpermeable surfaces affects the amount of run-off to surface waters.

## Additional Concerns

- CREP – no additional staff funding in the budget to spend the possible \$200 million federal dollars.
- DNR Dam Safety Grant Program- reinsert \$2.1 million funds generated from fuel tax placed on motorboats to leverage \$4.0 million in federal funds for NRCS Pilot Dam rehabilitation Project which must be obligated by October, 2002.

Rebecca Baumann, Executive Director

April, 2001

### **Board of Directors**

Marvin Fox, President • Robert Washkuhn, Vice-President • Roger Hahn, Secretary/Treasurer  
Rose Hass Leider • Robert Hoesly • Charles Jarman • George Nettum • Wilbur Petroskey

## LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Agriculture and Extension Service Center  
1150 Bellevue Street  
Green Bay, WI 54302  
Phone: (920) 391-4620 Fax: (920) 391-4617  
**BILL HAFS**

COUNTY CONSERVATIONIST

4-19-01

To: Brown County Legislators  
Regarding: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)  
From: Bill Hafs, Brown County Land Conservation Department

Governor Tommy Thompson, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture have applied for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for Wisconsin. The amount of money that could come to Wisconsin for installation of Buffer Strips and other conservation practices is **\$200 million dollars.** This money would be a golden opportunity, it would not only improve water quality, it would also provide important revenue for farmers during this difficult economic time for Wisconsin Agriculture.

The only concern regarding the CREP program is that no staffing strategy has been identified to get the job done. The goal is to install over 100,000 acres of Buffers by the end of 2002. That will require over 500 staff years to accomplish.

I have attached a position paper that outlines a way to provide staffing to accomplish CREP with **no** fiscal impact for the state 2002 budget.

It is my understanding that Wisconsin ranks in the bottom 10% of States that receive Federal Dollars. Please don't let \$200 million dollars return to Washington because of a lack of a staffing strategy. Please review and give serious consideration to my proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

*William C. Hafs*

William C. Hafs  
Conservationist for Brown County

# Position Paper on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

## Brown County Land Conservation Department

Bill Hafs 4-13-01

### Program description

The Governor of Wisconsin has submitted an application to the USDA Farm Services Agency for the Conservation Reserve enhancement program. Project area includes Brown County, most counties that border Lake Michigan, the Mississippi river and border Illinois. The project area is aimed at the major sources of sediment and nutrients, Great Lakes Areas of Concern (Green Bay, Sheboygan, Milwaukee harbors) and impaired waters list.

### Project Goals

The State's goal is to enroll 100,000 acres into CREP with a deadline of December 31, 2002.

Specific goals:

- Reduce runoff of phosphorus and nitrogen by 15% and sediment in runoff by 15% from cropland in the project area.
- Establish riparian buffers on 50% of the stream miles in the project area currently without buffers.

### Incentives

The USDA will provide \$200 million dollars matched by the State of Wisconsin \$40 million for a total of \$240 million dollars. Landowners will be eligible for up to \$2800 per acre to install buffer strips. Wetland restorations are also eligible.

### Obstacles

No staffing strategy is included in Governors proposal.

The \$240 million dollars has to be spent by December 31, 2002 or it will be lost.

### Analysis and Recommendations

\$200 million dollars from the federal government (plus an additional \$40 million from the state) is a golden opportunity that should not go unused. County, State and National water quality goals could be advanced with this program. Farmers will sign up in large numbers for \$2800/acre to install buffers in this difficult economic time for agriculture. We installed 50 miles (400 acres) of Buffer strips in 2001 for only \$500/acre.

Based upon our experience in Brown County installing Buffer Strips one staff person can install approximately 200 acres of buffer strips per year. 100,000 acres of buffers in the state project area will require 500 staff years to install. Hiring this level of new staff to accomplish the 100,000-acre goal would be difficult and have its own set of problems. The time frame is very short and a project with a only a year and half project length is not attractive for qualified people.

I recommend that existing Priority Watershed Projects and associated staff be extended for the CREP project timetable. Existing watershed contracts will need to be extended and landowners will need to agree to delay watershed project implementation (where possible) during CREP project implementation. Currently the proposed State Budget would add a provision that would prevent extension of priority watershed projects. This provision would need to be amended to consider the CREP project timetable.



SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

04/04/01

## John Muir Chapter

I am here on behalf of the Sierra Club to comment on five budget issues that we believe are necessary to protect our high quality of life in Wisconsin.

First, we must continue state financial support for recycling. Wisconsin's recycling initiatives are the centerpiece for the nation, and state mandates promised local communities would receive 2/3 funding to continue our visionary programs. Yet, the Governor's budget reduces financial support by 45% and eliminates key DNR and UW-Extension staff. We have the ability to offset any budget shortfalls by implementing the DNR's proposal to establish a \$1.55/ton landfill surcharge. We request that:

1. State financial support continues using landfill surcharges to raise required revenue.
2. Increase the state support by the CPI.
3. Exempt these surcharges from local cost controls.
4. Restore the recycling staff in the DNR and UW-Extension System.

Second, we must remove the self-audit privileges from the Green Tier Proposal. This audit privilege makes a mockery of the Green Tier program's intent of achieving superior environmental performance.

Third, we must retain two fee transfers from the WisDOT to the DNR for water quality. Important river and lake improvement projects are funded from monies received through motor vehicle transfers and monies budgeted against motorboat gasoline usage. We request that the budget continue to reflect a fee of about \$7.50 per motor vehicle transfer given to support DNR non-point pollution programs. In addition, we request that the budget transfer to the DNR based upon 50 gallons per motorboat be increased to 100 gallons to better reflect increased motorboat horsepower.

Fourth, we must remove any attempts in the budget to split the DNR into two separate agencies. Not only would such an activity significantly disrupt an organization that is still recovering from its recent reorganization, but also it fundamentally disregards current scientific convention that you cannot compartmentalize environmental issues.

Fifth, we must fully fund the Family Farm Protection Act. Senator Brian Burke will introduce an amendment to the proposed budget that will provide \$10.6 million annually for measures to improve family farm profitability and control manure runoff and soil erosion. We can capture these required funds by reducing the \$29 million the Governor has slated for biotechnology programs that favor larger farms.

Submitted by:  
Chris Nehrbass  
John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club  
903 Fulton St., Wausau, WI. 54403



State of Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee Hearing  
Marshfield, Wisconsin  
April 4, 2001

Testimony of  
Victor D. Phillips, Dean  
UWSP College of Natural Resources

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to request amendment of the Governor's budget to provide additional resources for conservation and sustainable use of Wisconsin's natural resources through three partnership initiatives statewide.

(1) Reformulation of the motorboat fuel tax, based on an increase from 50 to 80 gallons average annual fuel usage per motorboat, to generate an additional \$6,400,000 for wetlands and watersheds conservation within the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (W-DNR) Water Resources Account as recommended by its Board, but not included in the Governor's budget. Specifically with a small portion (\$400,000) of these new funds, I urge your support to establish a **Wisconsin Watersheds Partnership Center** at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point for staffing and programming to coordinate watersheds education and outreach services statewide in partnership with UW Extension, W-DNR and others.

The Wisconsin Watersheds Partnership Center will facilitate collaborative research and educational efforts among participating institutions to provide science-based knowledge for effective watershed management. Through outreach education, the Center will improve citizen, business and industry awareness and knowledge of impacts to and conservation of wetlands and watersheds. The Center's training programs will contribute to workforce development needed urgently to help meet comprehensive "smart growth" planning and sustainable development goals in Wisconsin's 2,000 townships, villages and municipalities, all of which have water quality and quantity issues to address for building a sustainable future.

(2) Increased funding of \$2,220,000 for the Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative, a partnership of UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls and UW-Stevens Point along with the U.S. Geological Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (W-DATCP), W-DNR, UW Extension and private agricultural industry. The Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative is included in the Governor's budget, but at half the level of funds needed to succeed. Although the participating partners are pleased with the \$6,640,000 requested by Governor McCallum, this initiative is important enough to Wisconsin that we believe it should be funded at the level originally requested by W-DATCP, i.e., at \$8,860,000 and 5.5 positions. At this proposed amount, the startup process can begin most efficiently and fully for the UW-Platteville Pioneer Agricultural Stewardship Farm, the privately owned "discovery farms" located throughout the state, and the supporting administrative and component research activities. The UW-Stevens Point component (\$235,000) addresses nutrient and sediment loads from farm runoff and seepage via environmental assessment and monitoring of surface and groundwater resources the proposed study sites statewide.

(3) Restoration of four UW Extension recycling and waste management positions statewide for the Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) that are slated for elimination in the Governor's budget. The loss of these positions and the associated \$325,000 will make it much more difficult for SHWEC to leverage federal grant dollars in recycling and waste management, which in the past, have far surpassed the amount of State funding that is expended on this program. The SHWEC staff and programming benefits Wisconsin businesses and communities by saving millions of dollars through waste reduction and recycling efforts. At the UW-Stevens Point, Dr. Jack Annis, SHWEC Director, currently has a total of \$588,000 in USDA/USEPA grants proposed which will not come to UW-Stevens Point without these positions being authorized and available to help meet client-based outreach educational needs.

City of Marshfield  
City Hall Plaza  
630 S. Central Avenue  
P.O. Box 727  
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449-0727



Michael F. Brehm  
City Administrator  
(715) 387-6597  
Fax (715) 384-9310

April 4, 2001

To: Joint Finance Committee

From: Michael Brehm, City Administrator  
City of Marshfield

RE: Public Hearing on SB 55/AB 144

I would like to welcome the Committee to the City of Marshfield and extend our hospitality to you. I would also like to thank the Committee for holding these public hearings throughout the State which provides an opportunity for local governments to express their views on the above mentioned bills.

Just as the state is wrestling with their biennial budget, local units of government throughout the state wrestle with theirs annually. The state budget as proposed is not a basis for strengthening the relationship between the state and local units of government; it takes away from it. The City of Marshfield supports the Kettl Commission's principles that citizens must be at the center of everything government does, that citizens deserve the most efficient, cost-effective government that money can buy, and that local governments need maximum flexibility in fulfilling statewide goals. A key commission conclusion was that citizens deserve to pay roughly the same amount for local government services whether they live in a community with a large property tax base or in a community with a small one. The proposed budget bill betrays either those principles or specific Kettle Commission recommendations on county and municipal shared revenue and growth sharing, transportation, youth aids, community aids, recycling and the state court system.

The budget, in part, emphasizes a massive redistribution of state-shared revenues for sales tax growth sharing and the expenditure restraint program. If that trend continues, and without the current hold harmless provisions, the City of Marshfield stands to lose over \$650,000 compared to the existing formula! This coupled with the fact that manufacturing values will be added into the City's full value for shared revenue purposes, and removing computer values, causes a shift away from communities that provide jobs and build the economy with good paying jobs. In Marshfield's case, the result is making the city look \$37.5 million richer in property tax base for shared revenue purposes, thus making us eligible for a smaller slice of the diminished-in-size equalization aid pie. The effect is to shift money away from industrial cities toward bedroom suburbs.

The smaller number of services included in the budget bill's definition of Badger Basics, including general government, public safety and public health, shows that the state doesn't think 58% of the city's expenditures are important enough to qualify for equalization aid. These include basic government functions like solid waste and recycling as well as functions that are important to economic growth and quality of life of local governments that the Kettl Commission said were crucial to the state-local partnership. These also include the functions of street and road improvements, business development, parks and recreation and libraries.

Finally, the change to Badger Basics/aidable expenditures creates a smaller base from which aid is distributed; changing the whole way communities are compared against one another for state shared revenue purposes. That brings former hold-harmless communities like Madison, Eau Claire and Neenah into the formula, and leaves less money available for communities like Marshfield, Marinette and Green Bay. The effect is even more noticeable because equalization aids are cut.

In conclusion, the state can strengthen its relationship with local units of government if it applies the principles of equity and partnership in its dealings with cities. The state budget must focus on rebuilding this partnership, it must be cognizant of the equity issues when considering the redistribution of state shared revenues, and it must fund mandated expenditures.

April 20, 2001

To: State Joint Committee on Finance

From: Carey Tradewell, President & CEO of the Milwaukee Women's Center

RE: Public testimony related to the 2001-03 state budget bill

Good morning/afternoon. My name is Carey Tradewell Monreal and I am the President and CEO of the Milwaukee Women's Center, Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about our agency and address our concerns tied to particular areas of human service funding addressed in the proposed state budget. The Milwaukee Women's Center's is a women and minority-governed and operated private, non-profit agency whose mission is to "research, develop and administer programs" to end abuse in our community. Our agency began 21 years ago as an emergency shelter for battered women and children. Today we operate a \$3 million dollar budget, have 3 sites located in the community, and in partnership with Children's Service Society of Wisconsin, operate a \$13 million dollar Child Welfare Agency, Innovative Family Partnerships. Last year, MWC directly served 2,231 individuals in the areas of domestic violence, substance abuse services, mental health counseling, maternal & child health and fatherhood programming. Over 13,000 individuals were also assisted through our 24-hour crisis hotline and community education programs. Our clients demographics are: 70% women and girls, 41% are age 17 or younger, 60% are African American, 25% Caucasian and 10% Hispanic, and 80% live near or below the poverty level. I am here today to highlight my concerns related to human service funding in **three (3) areas**:

- **Child Welfare Budget** - Amend the Budget to **include the DHFS proposal for case management contracts and mentor services**, including the Department's proposal to allow vendors to **redirect service dollars** to achieve the most efficient and effective case management ratios. In addition, DHFS should be allowed **multiyear flexibility** in the use of funds in order to maximize our capacity to target resources to changing service and case management needs.
- **Substance Abuse Services Funding** – Amend the Budget so that Milwaukee County **maintains its current annual GPR allocation of \$5 million** for substance abuse services.
- **Domestic Abuse Program Funding** – Amend the Budget and grant a **10% increased in funds (equal to \$750,000)** to the DHFS statewide **Domestic Abuse Programs budget**. Support the introduction of a new budget amendment, to be presented by Senator Gwen Moore, which would allow our state to **adopt the federal Family Violence Option** to waive eligibility requirements to women who are participating in W-2 and are victims of domestic violence.

## **CHILD WELFARE BUDGET**

The Governor's 2001-03 Budget reduces funding for BMCW Case Management Contract services by \$2.2 million per year. If the Budget passes as proposed, each of the five sites would receive about \$445,000 less in both CY2002 and CY2003 than is being spent in 2001 to provide these services.

The private agencies currently under contract to provide case management services believe that this reduction would lead to unacceptable increases in caseloads and staff turnover, as well as a dangerous erosion of both the effectiveness and accountability of the system. More specifically, these agencies project that caseloads would increase from current levels of about 16 families per social worker to well over 20. Each social worker would be responsible for 12-15 more children as part of their family caseload increase. Staff turnover could easily soar to 70-80% annually. Within this context we would expect our already stretched case management services to become far less effective, resulting in increased abuse and neglect, more children in foster care drift, and greater crisis driven use of expensive and unnecessarily isolated out of home services. Coupled with the fact that the budget reductions would force agencies to reduce staff time that is currently committed to the documentation needed to respond to the issues raised by the ACLU Lawsuit, these projected outcomes would clearly take us in the wrong direction, reversing the important progress that we have made since the state took over the Milwaukee child welfare system in 1998. Milwaukee County's children and families will be the losers in the short run, but taxpayers would end up paying for unnecessary costs due to system inefficiencies and possibly, renewed legal challenges.

**Recommendation: I strongly encourage the Joint Finance Committee to amend the Budget to include the Department of Health and Family Services proposal for case management contracts and mentor services, including the proposed ability of the Department to allow vendors to redirect service dollars to achieve the most efficient and effective case management ratios. In addition, DHFS should be allowed multiyear flexibility in the use of funds in order to maximize our capacity to target resources to changing service and case management needs.**

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES GRANTS**

DHFS currently distributes \$5 million GPR annual grant to Milwaukee County for substance abuse treatment services to TANF-eligible individuals with family incomes equal or less than 200% of the federal poverty level. Since 1999, the Milwaukee County Department of Human Services administers these service dollars through a community collaborative of nearly 40 substance abuse treatment providers and social service agencies. The Milwaukee Women's Center is **one of three primary providers** operating a Central Intake Unit to provide screenings and assessment in order to expedite AODA treatment for TANF eligible women and families living in Milwaukee County. Since May of 2000, we have provided intakes for 350 women and men. Our agency has been able to use this flexible funding source to:

- form a partnership with UWM Center for Addiction and Behavioral Research and the other Central Intake Units to design and a **universal screening and assessment tool** that is both gender and culturally sensitive,
- create a **Fatherhood Program** to better serve the unique needs of incarcerated, custodial, and non-custodial fathers,
- provide **comprehensive in-home case management and other supportive services** to clients receiving substance abuse treatment and,
- collaborate with five other Central Intake Units to provide a **more seamless and comprehensive approach to connected consumers to AODA treatment services.**

This new Milwaukee County TANF/AODA system provides comprehensive treatment that is responsive to each individual family's unique strengths, needs and resources. This system needs to maintain its current level of funding in order to continue its current successful outcomes and demonstrate the states commitment to investing in strong treatment programs that work.

**Recommendation: I strongly encourage the Joint Finance Committee to consider the substance abuse needs of Milwaukee County and maintain its current annual GPR allocation of \$5 million for substance abuse services.**

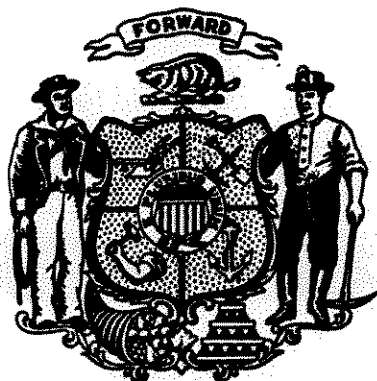
## **DOMESTIC ABUSE PROGRAM FUNDING**

The MWC and Sojourner Truth House are the only two agencies in Milwaukee County that provide 24-hour emergency shelter and crisis line services to victims of domestic violence and their children. Last year, 190 women and 221 children accessed a safe haven away from their abusive partners at our Refuge. They also received various support and education services for domestic violence, substance abuse, physical, emotional and mental health, housing, legal and economic self-sufficiency. Currently, the DHFS administers the Domestic Abuse Programs in Wisconsin. The programs are appropriated at \$7.5 million.

**Recommendation: In effort to continue our services for victims of domestic abuse, I encourage that the Joint Finance committee strongly consider granting a 10% increased in funds to the Domestic Abuse Program. This request amounts to \$750,000. I also support the introduction of new legislation for our state to adopt the federal Family Violence Option in the ongoing administration of W-2 programs in Wisconsin. As a budget amendment introduced by Senator Gwen Moore, this measure would waive certain W-2 program eligibility requirements for individuals for individuals who are victims of domestic abuse.**

Thank you again for taking the time to listen to my concerns related funding in the areas of Child Welfare, Substance Abuse Services and Domestic Abuse Programs.

*END*



*END*

**FOSTER CARE RATE INCREASE**  
submitted by  
**Anne Rankin, President**  
**Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, Inc.**

The Department of Administration removed the foster care rate increase entirely from the budget. On behalf of the more than 10,000 foster children in Wisconsin I am asking that the foster care rate increase be reinstated into the budget. I am a foster and adoptive parent in Douglas County.

Attached is a compilation of foster care basic rates for the states in Region 5 for the year 2000. WI has the lowest basic foster care rate of all of the six states in Region 5.

From this basic rate, foster parents are expected to purchase clothing, food and provide housing for the foster child. They also are expected to assist in transporting the children to biological family visits, court hearings, take foster children to medical, dental and mental health appointments and provide funds for all school activities, such as field trips, sports, extracurricular activities.

Foster children have special needs, such as: physical disabilities and psychological disorders. Foster parents are required by state law to receive training which enables us to provide the additional care these children need.

Foster children, like all children, are our future. We must invest time and money to assure them that they too have a future. Without the care and commitment of foster parents, these children would be a lost part of our society.

Help these children by reinstating the foster care rate increase to allow them to have their basic needs met.

*Anne Rankin*  
*7057 S. Lusk Lane*  
*LK. Mekegama, WI*  
*54849*  
*715-374-2180*



REGION FIVE BASIC FOSTER RATES, 2000

	Birth-4 years.	6-12 yrs.	13-18 yrs
Illinois	\$350.00	\$394.00	\$427.00
Indiana	\$507.50	\$530.00	\$612.50
Michigan	\$403.50	\$445.50	\$499.50
Minnesota	\$463.50	\$557.40	\$566.10
Ohio	\$370.00	\$430.00	\$490.00
Wisconsin	\$299.00	\$326.00	\$387.00
**Average:	\$419.00	\$471.00	\$519.00
(Average compiled omitting WI)			

	*Initial Clothing Allowance	Interim Clothing Allowance	Additional Funds
Illinois	Determined per case	\$0.00	Camp Music Lessons Special Activity
Indiana	Higher basic rate to cover clothing and additional expenses.		
Michigan	\$325.----B-4 yrs. \$375-----5-12 yrs. \$500.----13-18 yrs.	\$122. every 6 mos. (while in foster care)	
Minnesota	\$318.----B-11 yrs. \$540.----12-14 yrs. \$609.----14-18 yrs.		
Ohio	\$350.----B-4 yrs. \$450.----5-12 yrs. \$600.----13-18 yrs.		\$650/H.S. grad
Wisconsin	Determined by county/agency Highest rate:B-4 yrs.--\$150. 5-12 yrs.--\$175. 13-18 yrs.-\$200.	None	None

My name is Kim Lalor and I represent the Community Referral Agency, <sup>in Milltown,</sup> a Domestic Violence Center serving Polk and Burnett Counties. I am a Crisis Intervention Coordinator, a legal advocate, and the sole staff person at the CRA Outreach Office in Siren.

I am asking that you support a 10% increase in funding to DHFS to go to local programs to help stabilize those programs & improve access to services. I also urge you to support a \$300,000 increase in funding targeted toward outreach & services to traditionally underserved populations.

I come from an area with a low income population. CRA provides the 7 services DHFS mandates - temporary shelter & food; counseling; advocacy, referral, and follow-up; 24-hour crisis line; and educational arrangements and programs for children. We also provide an Outreach office for Burnett County.

~~The~~ CRA is strongly impacted by labor shortages. Most businesses can offer much higher wages and benefit packages than CRA can. Our funding is limited by the various grants we get. We simply cannot compete with factories and other for-profit businesses.

Added to this are administrative burdens placed by the funders who require more and more documentation to justify the need for services. These issues impact our program's stability as workers leave for better paying jobs, and the ones who are left take up the slack, work to a burn out stage, then leave for a better paying, less stressful job. Each year we serve more women, men, and children. Each year we spend more time advocating and supporting these participants. And each year we do it with little money.

Please support a 10% increase for these services and the additional \$300,000 for outreach and other services.

Thank-you.

Kim Lalor  
Community Referral Agency  
Milltown, WI

Kim Lalor  
P.O. Box 276  
Webster 54893

Next move the BSI Discretionary funds into  
the School Districts

As an adoptive Mom of two Special  
needs children from Wisconsin's foster care  
System - I am a participant in a support  
group Adoption Adventure and ask for  
continous support and aid to bring  
speakers and training up to this  
northern area

My girls are special needs - we are  
on waiting lists for Copp Kipp +  
Family Support. We have been told it will  
be 5 years before my 13 and 10 year  
olds will make it up the list. Please  
end the waiting lists

Lynn P Maas  
10661 E Saare Rd  
Poplar WI 54864  
715-363-2565

Mary Weidling  
Adoption Search Consultant  
ICARE'S Wisconsin Adoption Registry  
N5080 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Mauston, Wisconsin. 53948  
Phone 608-847-5563  
<http://www.icareregistry.com>

March 30, 2001

RE; Governor McCallum's proposed budget cuts

To All Concerned;

It has come to our attention that Gov. McCallum has proposed a budget cut that would have a devastating effect on the State Adoption Search Program. It would either cut the program or perhaps offer it to privatization.

As a Birth Mother ( Reunited) and as Co-Founder of ICARE'S Wisconsin Adoption Registry, I believe there is a great need for the continuation of the State Search Program which implements the current Adoption Laws. Wisconsin had countless Adoptees and Birth Family Members searching for each other, with the hopes of being reunited. For an Adoptee, the State Search Program is their best avenue to successfully meet this goal. In so doing they are able to obtain a Birth Heritage and a Medical history.

Searching is a healing process. I believe everyone has a God given birth right to know his origins. For Adoptees, having a State that has a Search Program is their avenue to this knowledge! I ask that each of you search within yourselves and agree that each of us is equal and each of us is entitled to be treated equally. To cut the State Search Program, when Wis. has an Open Adoption Law that the Program has successfully implemented for well over 15 years, would discriminate against all Adoptees seeking to utilize the Law. It would deny them access to the knowledge so many persons take for granted.

The State Search Program has successfully operated for many years with daily inquiries. It has proven it's need year after year. The Program operates on a fee basis so it is self supporting, and perhaps even generates revenue for the State. It has not been shown to be operating in the red.

I ask that each of you have the courage to say NO to Gov. McCallum's proposed budget cuts in regard to the State Adoption Search Program and to say NO to privatization of this Program.

**Testimony of Douglas B. Henderson, Ph.D. before the Joint Finance Committee, April 4, 2001**

Please allow me to provide you some information about myself. I am an adoptee, reunited with my birth family (from New York State) since 1983. I am currently a Professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, specializing in child and adolescent development and behavior problems. I am a Licensed Psychologist in Wisconsin, and am Listed in the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology. I was leader of the Stevens Point Chapter of Adoption Information and Direction for 12 years, and State President of this group from 1995-1998. Adoption Information and Direction was a search and support group which operated chapters in a total of 7 Wisconsin cities from 1981 through 1998, and was affiliated with the American Adoption Congress (AAC). I am presently the Midwest Regional Director of the AAC, and the Wisconsin State representative to the AAC. I have been a member of the AAC National Board of Directors since 1996, and of their Executive Committee since 1998. The AAC is an international group of adoption triad members (adoptees, birth parents, and adoptive parents), adoption and mental health professionals, and others touched by adoption, who support the rights of all involved in adoption to full access to their personal records.

I am here to speak against the proposed privatization of the Wisconsin State Adoption Records Search Program (ARSP). Under the Governor's proposed state budget, the Search Program will terminate at the end of May, and its functions will be transferred to private agencies. The cost caps on searches (currently \$150 for a search; \$100 per birth parent) will be lifted.

You may or may not know that the ARSP had a rather controversial past. The program was started as a result of lobbying by a group of adoption triad members in the early 1980s. The group that became acquainted during the legislative hearings that resulted in the ARSP evolved into Adoption Information and Direction. Through most of the 1980s the ARSP was headed by a person who did not (apparently) believe in the rights of adoptees and birth families to meet, and who, for whatever reasons, ran a most disorganized, insensitive, and non-responsive program. Delays of up to two years or more in completing a search were common, despite statutory requirements that searches be completed within 6 months, and adoptees were often challenged by staff members as to their reasons for desiring to exercise their right to search for birth relatives.

About 10 years ago, after many years of pressure from Adoption Information and Direction, a Legislative Audit Bureau investigation of the ARSP was conducted, and a scathing report was released. The Program was completely revamped, and for the last several years has been operating as it was designed to, as an advocate for triad members who wish a reunion, with average search times running approximately one month. The sliding scale which the State offers allows all who desire reunion to enter the program, and many of the state's searches are conducted for reduced fees. The ARSP is not perfect, and a much better option would be for Wisconsin to join the 6 other states that currently grant adult adoptees and birth relatives the nearly unfettered legal right to knowledge of their own history. However, until we are able to bring Wisconsin's treatment of the adoption process into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the ARSP has become one of the model search programs of its kind in the country.

Anyone who has watched the news about the electric power situation in California (to name one recent example) knows the results of privatization: increases in cost to consumers, problems with delivery of services, especially to those with limited financial resources, and, of course, for a time, more profits to service providers. We have also seen that in California, the State government has had to step in and rescue the state's power consumers from the consequences of privatization.

This is not meant to be an indictment of, or a call for the elimination of, private searching, whether by individuals (offering free services such as those I provide myself, or for a fee) or an indictment of all searches conducted by agencies. There is, and there should be, a place for a variety of search services in the mix of available options for triad members. However, for many triad members, it was the adoption agency that

participated in the act of separating the biological family, and was the keeper of secrets for many years. Thus, in the view of many, particularly birth parents, the agencies are not seen as supportive of the right to search. (Many agencies also need to be brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and in fairness, many, but not all, are changing their historic resistance to search and reunion.)

However, if ever there was a program that owes its origin to actions conducted by the state, that program is adoption. Even in adoptions conducted by private agencies, it is the state, through the courts and the social services system, that approves the finalization, seals the original birth certificate, and holds the information in its possession. The state is the entity that tells adoptees and birth parents they have no right to know each others identities. It should be a "cost of doing business" for the state to provide the information it has for so long withheld. It should be a "cost of doing business" to the state to address the consequences of a state-sponsored social program that produced unexpected and long-term problems for at least some, if not most, program participants.

As an adoptee I had no choice in the government's requirement that I be isolated from my birth roots by my adoption. Adoptive parents for many years also had no choice but to receive children into their families with very little, if any, effective knowledge of their children's past. Birth parents, especially in the past, were told they had no choice but to surrender their children, and for many years the only way to do this was in secrecy. The \$94,000 over two years that will supposedly be saved by the termination of the Wisconsin State Adoption Records Search Program is but a small portion of the debt the State of Wisconsin owes to the adoptees and birth parents it has for so long kept apart.

I believe that a few years ago there was an attempt to privatize the Search Program, and a request for bids to take over the program was issued. While I have been unable to find in my records the exact time and circumstances of this event, I believe that after looking at the nature of the task, no agencies from the private sector offered viable bids for the project. The records in question were sealed BY THE STATE and will remain, as I understand it, in State possession.

I am here today to express my dismay at the privatization of the State Adoption Records Search program, particularly on such short notice, and apparently without consulting with anyone from within my rather large network of Wisconsin triad members, searchers, and adoption professionals. Until the time Wisconsin joins the increasing list of states in which adoptees and birth families have the full unencumbered legal right to access their own records and to make decisions as adults about what to do with that information, Wisconsin's State Adoption Records Search Program should continue as it is presently structured.

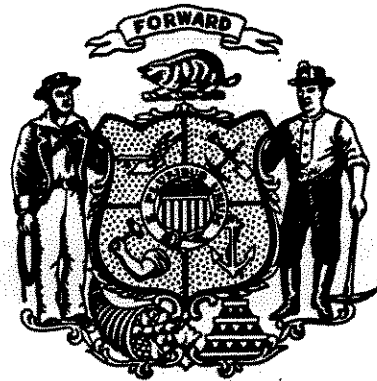
Thank you for your time. I am more than willing to provide more information on this issue.



Douglas B. Henderson, Ph.D.  
Professor of Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
Licensed Wisconsin Psychologist  
Listed in the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology  
Reunited adoptee since 1983  
American Adoption Congress Midwest Regional Director and Wisconsin State Representative

E-mail: <fireworks@charter.net> or <dhenders@uwsp.edu> Phone: (715) 345-1290  
4308 Heffron Street,  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

END



END





# *Hmong/American Friendship Association, Inc.*

3824 West Vliet Street • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

Telephone: (414) 344-6575 • Fax: (414) 344-6581

**A Non-Profit Organization**

Good morning. My name is Pahulesee Xaiyasang. I am representing the Refugee Family Strengthening Program of the Hmong American Friendship Association. Our Family Strengthening Program grew out of an expressed need in the Southeast Asian community due to extreme difficulty accessing mainstream services because of language and cultural barriers. Despite an increased awareness among younger women about their rights to speak up and make decisions for themselves, domestic violence continues to be a major problem among refugee families.

Our program serves on a daily basis clients of a different culture from that of the mainstream, who have difficulties speaking or understanding English, who are deeply rooted in the traditional values of marriage and family, as well as clients who lack knowledge of the available resources. As a result, there is a need to continue our outreach and education in the Southeast Asian community, as well as to address issues of domestic violence, and provide culturally competent intervention and prevention services for victims, their families, and the community.

Today, I would like to voice my program's support for the 10% increase in funding for domestic abuse programs, as well as a \$300,000 increase in funding targeted towards outreach and services for traditionally underserved populations. Increase in such fundings would help to stabilize domestic abuse and sexual assault programs, as well as improve access to services. The Refugee Family Strengthening Program would also like to support the court interpreting program, as it is an integral part of the domestic violence and sexual assault program. A direct example of this is with clients who need to go to court for domestic violence or sexual assault cases. Going to court can be intimidating and even more so when you cannot speak the language or lack the knowledge of court procedure. However, with the help of a legal advocate or interpreter who knows the legal process, the clients are empowered by their newfound ability to make better informed decisions.

Increased support of funding for domestic violence programs and for the court interpreting program is essential. These programs address the needs of the entire family, creates opportunities for members of different systems to discuss the dilemmas they face in addressing domestic violence, provides mutual support, and enhances abilities to take action and work for a change in the community. Thank you.

My name is Susan Van Schaik and I am an attorney working for Friends of Abused Families of Washington County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I am here to request an increase in the state budget for domestic abuse programs. The Domestic Abuse Program is administered by DHFS and the total amount of funds appropriated is currently \$7,582,000. This amount funds 53 county-based domestic abuse programs which provide services to all 72 Wisconsin counties, as well as 10 tribal domestic abuse programs, American Indians Against Abuse, 3 Hmong programs, Independence First, the University of Wisconsin Nursing School/UNIDOS, the Wisconsin Domestic Violence Training Project, and the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence. I am requesting that the Joint Finance Committee strongly consider granting a 10% increase in funds to the Domestic Abuse Program. This request amounts to \$750,000.

Our program is located in West Bend and serves Washington County. We provide services to victims of domestic violence and their children including a 24 hour crisis line, shelter, adult support groups, children's groups, legal advocacy, sexual assault services, transitional services, and transportation. Last year we provided 1,099 domestic violence services to victims. We have found that the nature and complexity of issues presented by our clients have increased dramatically. More and more victims have housing, transportation, and economic issues. They need legal services which include obtaining restraining orders, filing for divorce and custody, immigration issues and understanding the criminal justice system.

Stability has become an issue for our program. We cannot offer salaries and benefits that compete with other employers, yet we require highly skilled individuals to work with families in crisis. The turnover rate at our program is high. In the past year, we have had to hire 7 new employees, out of a total staff of 14, to replace vacant positions. Turnover is extremely costly in the long run when one considers training and start-up costs as well as the loss of the more experienced employee. Our program, which is funded primarily through public and grant dollars, cannot compete in today's labor market where many employers are offering higher salaries, good benefits and incentives for employees. With an increase of just 10% in the state budget for domestic abuse programs, we hope to level the playing field and retain our experienced staff.

In addition, we are also requesting the Joint Finance Committee consider appropriating an additional \$300,000. to provide outreach services to victims of abuse who have been traditionally underserved within our own community. Populations such as the elderly, developmentally/physically disabled, refugee, immigrant, migrant farm workers, and ethnic/cultural minorities also face victimization by domestic violence. We would like to respond to these populations and focus on meeting the needs of these groups.

As one who provides direct service to victims of domestic violence, I can testify that there is a genuine need to increase state funding for domestic abuse programs. Thank you for listening to my concerns about domestic violence.

Susan Van Schaik  
Legal Services Coordinator  
Friends of Abused Families

# TASK FORCE on FAMILY VIOLENCE

Peace • Justice • Education



Joint Finance Committee  
c/o Legislative Fiscal Bureau  
One East Main, Suite 301  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear members of the Joint Finance Committee,

***On behalf of victims of family violence in Milwaukee, I respectfully request an increase in funding for domestic abuse programs. In addition, please honor the Supreme Court's budget request for funding for court interpreters.***

The Task Force on Family Violence of Milwaukee provides advocacy services to approximately 6000 victims each year. Last year, about 300 abusers attended our Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, an eighteen-week educational program for both men and women who use violence in intimate relationships.

At our courthouse office, we provide in-person restraining order assistance to the largest number of victims in the state. Our specially trained advocates help victims identify the proper type of order, explain the filing process and the forms, help them prepare their testimony, witnesses and evidence, accompany them to their hearings, explore other options and safety strategies, and maintain regular telephone contact. Typically, our advocates provide these services to those who have been abused, stalked or harassed by their current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, parent, adult child, sibling, co-worker, family member or friend of the abuser, neighbor or schoolmate. We serve victims of all ages and every ethnicity, economic level, employment status, and educational background. A growing number of our clients are protective parents filing orders on behalf of their children who have been abused.

Because of the very limited space we have available to us at the courthouse, our other two advocacy programs operate out of our administrative offices. Our program for adult victims, the Legal Emergency Assistance Project (LEAP), is funded by a Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant administered by the Wisconsin Office of Crime Victim Services. LEAP advocates provide help identifying and accessing community resources, information about restraining orders and other legal remedies, limited financial assistance (such as new locks, emergency rent or utility payments, transportation, or storage for a victim fleeing violence), and screening for legal services. This VOCA sub-grant includes funds for legal services from Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc. (LAW). Last year, LAW provided legal advice and representation to more than 120 family violence victims referred by LEAP advocates. Because of legal services by LAW, victims of family violence are able to collect child support, retain custody of their children, arrange a safe visitation schedule with the children's other parent, secure benefits, avoid homelessness and resolve other critical legal issues.

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634 West Mitchell Street • Milwaukee, WI 53204 • Phone 414-643-1911 • Fax 414-643-5001 • www.iffv.org

901 North 9th Street, Room 711 • Milwaukee, WI 53233 • Phone 414-278-5079 • Fax 414-223-1807

Our newest program is the Children's Advocacy Project. This project is designed to assist protective parents with issues similar to those described above, as well as to assist them in learning about and navigating the complicated systems for addressing violence against children. This can be a very confusing and time-consuming process, and having an advocate can dramatically improve a parent's chance of success.

The state funding that the Task Force currently receives funds a position that is responsible for training, assisting and providing technical assistance to the advocates in all three of our advocacy programs. The lead Police and Community Advocate also trains professionals, including police, prosecutors, and attorneys, as well as advocating within the various systems for better coordination. The other two state grants underwrite the emergency financial assistance described earlier and the Children's Advocacy Project.

The Task Force, like all of the other agencies serving families affected by intimate violence, struggles every year to raise enough charitable dollars to meet expenses. Nearly half of the \$1.4 million operating budget for 2001 must be raised from individual donors, corporations, and foundations. **Thus, it is essential that the allocation to support domestic abuse programs be increased by at least the requested 10%.** Non-competitive salaries result in programs having difficulty attracting and retaining employees with the skills necessary to be an effective advocate. High turnover and frequent vacancies hurt not only programs, but more importantly, victims and their children. The increase is critical to stabilize domestic abuse programs in order to best serve victims.

**The other funding issue that needs to be addressed is the court interpreter program.**

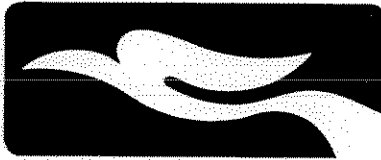
*Milwaukee courts are woefully inadequate in serving non-English speaking litigants, victims, and witnesses.* The Task Force makes every effort to employ advocates who are bilingual in Spanish. Still, when our clients go to court, it is often without the services of an advocate, because the advocate must interpret rather than function as an advocate during the hearing. Without an interpreter, the victim is required to return for another court date. Repeated court dates cost victims unnecessary stress and potentially undue expense. The cost of missing work, hiring a child care worker, and transportation to the courthouse are often a burden for victims. Many of our clients are also subpoenaed to testify in criminal courts against their abusers, are trying to protect their children in Children's Court, or are trying to resolve Family Court matters. None of these courts have adequate access to interpreter services. Our Bilingual Advocates are often asked to interpret in hearings unrelated to family violence, simply because of the lack of county resources. If someone comes to court who needs an interpreter in a language other than Spanish, there is often confusion about how to meet her/his needs and the most likely outcome is to delay the proceedings.

*In summary, I urge you to protect victims and their children by increasing funds to domestic abuse programs by 10% and by funding the court interpreter program at the level recommended by the Supreme Court. I would be delighted to discuss these issues further at your convenience.*

Sincerely,



Liz Marquardt  
Associate Executive Director



## **Personal Development Center, Inc.**

630 South Central Avenue • Suite 101R  
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449  
715/384-2971      FAX 715/384-7826

*Serving the Greater  
Marshfield Community  
for over 20 years...*

My name is Mary Phalen and I am the Director for the Personal Development Center of Marshfield. Our agency provides case management, advocacy, and prevention education to individuals and families in North Wood and Clark Counties.

**I am here today to request your support for a 10% increase in funding for domestic violence programs and a \$300,000. appropriation that would be targeted toward outreach and services for rural and low income populations.**

Last year our agency provided services through our Domestic Violence Projects to 399 adults and 112 children. At the Personal Development Center our greatest asset is our staff that provide this service to individuals and families that are affected by domestic violence. We are fortunate to have on board a Crisis Case Manager and a Children's Program Coordinator who have each been with us for over 10 years and a Transitional Case Manager who has been with us for over 5 years. As a Director I am committed to continually trying to ensure that as we are expecting staff to meet the changing needs of our clients, that we are also adequately supporting staff with fair compensation for their long-term commitment, self motivation, and excellent work.

A primary goal for our agency this year is to strengthen the ongoing sustainability of our services. The Joint Finance Committee can contribute to this goal by strengthening the funding for domestic violence programs. A statewide increase of 10% would be applied locally at our agency to hire an additional staff person to better meet the needs of our increasing caseload in North Wood county and build upon the existing expertise of our long term staff. Last year our Crisis Case Manager received the Governor's Council on Domestic Violence Award for her outstanding service to victims of domestic violence and their families. We recognize the leadership we have within our current staff and hope to be able to further train new staff by fully utilizing this expertise.

Our domestic violence project expanded our services to meet the needs of a low income, rural population within the neighboring county of Clark. During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2000 we provided services to 12 victims of domestic violence. In one year this number has increased 75%. I request that you consider appropriating an additional \$300,000 to improve such outreach efforts to rural and low income populations. This state level increase would be utilized locally to increase the hours of our one staff person who serves the entire county of Clark.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

**I ask that you show your commitment to supporting domestic violence programming through increasing the funding by 10% and appropriating an additional \$300,000. for our outreach services to rural, low income populations.**



**CLARK COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT**  
**216 Sunset Place • Neillsville, Wisconsin 54456**  
**Phone: 715-743-6401** **Fax: 715-743-6403**



United Way 54460-0235  
Member Agency

My name is Jennifer Smits and I am the Case Manager and Advocate for the Clark County Domestic Violence Project, a program of the Personal Development Center of Marshfield, WI. I am here to request that the Joint Finance Committee strongly consider granting a 10% increase in funds to the Domestic Abuse Program and support a \$300,000 increase in funding targeted toward servicing traditionally underserved populations.

The Clark County Domestic Violence Project office is located in Neillsville and is the only program in the county providing services to victims and families of domestic violence. The Project is only three years old and I am the only staff member providing services, resources, and community outreach for the entire county. The Project provides immediate responses to crisis through shelter, safety planning, and legal advocacy and continues to offer on going support with support groups and connections with other service agencies such as social services and legal community. I continue to build a strong network by collaborating with agency services to improve community responses by acting as chair coordinator to the Clark County Response Team which meet monthly.

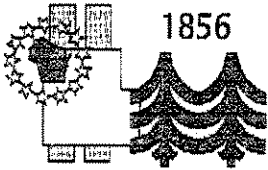
Rural population of Clark County: +32,000 – with the largest city +2600  
- (County geographically spread out = 33 towns, 5 villages, 7 cities).

**Areas of Development Strengthened by Additional Funding:**

- Single-staffed program for entire county
- Lack of resources: lacking housing/transportation options, economic concerns
- Outreach to underserved rural population

The Clark County Domestic Violence Project was established through the Personal Development Center in hopes to model the servicing in Clark County to the servicing in the Northern Wood Program. With additional funding, it would help me to personally increase services by increasing my availability to forty hours a week. An increase in funding would also help to develop transitional programming and on going support of self-sufficiency to victims and families. Finally, an increase in funding would allow me more adequate outreach for the communities.

Thank you once again for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I hope you consider my request and support today for the 10% increase in funding to the Domestic Abuse Program and a \$300,000 increase in funding targeted toward servicing to underserved populations, like Clark County.



# Wood County WISCONSIN

SHERIFF'S  
DEPARTMENT

*Kurt D. Heuer*  
SHERIFF

April 4, 2001

RE: Financial Support for Domestic Violence Agencies

As a 25-year veteran of law enforcement in a semi-rural county in Central Wisconsin, I have had the opportunity to experience the impact of domestic violent and abusive situations has on both the immediate members of the family and also the community.

We have the privilege in Wood County to have a cohesive and coordinated effort between law enforcement agencies and other community programs that provide support to victims of domestic violence and also those that provide counseling of those convicted of domestic violence crimes.

I began my law enforcement career prior to the existence of these agencies. Since their implementation, in the mid-1980's, it has become evident that the need for agencies providing foundations to deal with domestic violence is imperative to the safety of the victims of domestic violence and to allow them to deal realistically and effectively with alternatives to being in a violent situation.

Continued and expanded financial support for agencies that provide counseling, direction, and hope for those people caught in the often dangerous and controlled environments of abusive relationships is extremely important.

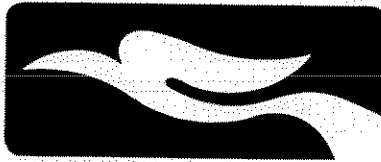
As a member of the law enforcement community, I urge continued financial support for agencies that have a proven record of helping those who find themselves entrenched in abusive or violent relationships.

Thank you for consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Robert Levandoske'.

Robert Levandoske, Lieutenant  
Wood County Sheriff's Department



## Personal Development Center, Inc.

630 South Central Avenue • Suite 101R  
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449  
715/384-2971 FAX 715/384-7826

*Serving the Greater  
Marshfield Community  
for over 20 years...*

April 4, 2001

Good Morning,

I am Barbara Inda and I have been with the Personal Development Center for the past eleven years. I have the task of teaching Project Self-Esteem to children of domestic violence. The purpose is to teach coping skills that will carry them through their traumatic daily living situations. I also focus on safety issues, protective behaviors and ways they can learn negotiation skills and methods of de-escalating violence. The children that I serve range from kindergarten through the twelfth grade. Several have learning disabilities. Many were injured when their mothers were pregnant with them and beaten.

I'm here today to ask you to increase funding for children of domestic violence, who through no fault of their own must live in these violent conditions. I wish I could tell you today that there is no need for these services, but if anything, I have seen an overwhelming increase in children at risk. I would like to share the following statistics with you. In 1997, I worked with fifty-seven children. In 1998, the number rose to eighty-four. In 1999, I saw one hundred and twelve children. By the year 2000, over a period of four years, the number of children served more than doubled.

If you feel helpless, in light of the violence issues that face today's children, you can help. I ask you, as the Joint Committee on Finance to grant a ten percent increase in funding for domestic violence programs.

I implore you to support this increase. At a time when the children of our nation are reaching out to you to ask for your help, please do not turn your back on them. I would like to encourage the Joint Committee on Finance to increase domestic violence funding by ten percent.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara H. Inda  
Coordinator of Children's Services