



**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**  
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**TO:** Al Robinson, Chair  
Ways & Means Committee

**THROUGH:** Robert E. Guenzel  
County Administrator

**FROM:** Brian L. Mackie  
Prosecuting Attorney

**DATE:** March 10, 1999

**SUBJECT:** 1999 Cooperative Reimbursement Grant Agreement

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED**

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney has completed an application for continuation of the Cooperative Reimbursement Program for the period of January 1, 1999, through September 30, 1999. I am requesting that your board approve the contract for funding to the Michigan Family Independence Agency. The contract continues the Program at relatively the same level as 1998, with minor increases for operational costs necessary for current production levels. The contract provides for reimbursement of expenses incurred to establish orders for child support for Washtenaw County residents up to a maximum of \$312,135.

**BACKGROUND**

The Cooperative Reimbursement Division of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office has been in operation for the past 25 years. The Division is funded primarily by the State of Michigan under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. The state and federal governments provide 74% of the funding for this program. The purpose of the program is to establish orders for child support for Washtenaw County residents.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Cooperative Reimbursement, or Child Support, Division of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office provides services to county residents who are seeking to establish paternity and/or child support orders. The Washtenaw County Family Independence Agency, Office of Child Support, refers all cases to our office. Many clients are eligible for services because of past or present receipt of TANF (formerly ADC), Medicaid, or other public assistance. Other county residents are eligible for services upon application to the Family Independence Agency.

Upon referral, the client is interviewed and the appropriate type of case is initiated with the Court. If paternity has not been legally established, an action is filed under the Michigan Paternity Act or, in some cases where the Defendant resides outside of Michigan, under UIFSA (Uniform Interstate Family Support Act). A court order establishing paternity as well as child support is then obtained.

If paternity has been established, by marriage or legal acknowledgment, an action is filed for child support against the absent parent on behalf of the custodial parent, the State of Michigan or the guardian of the children.

Cases are also filed after being received by other states seeking to establish paternity and/or child support obligations involving residents of Washtenaw County.

During the first three-quarters of 1998 (period ending September 30, 1998), the CR Division opened 973 cases and closed 969 cases. Paternity was established for 290 children. Support orders were obtained in 490 cases, with obligations totaling \$125,758.00 each month. Obligations near or exceeding 2 million dollars annually were ordered by the CR Division in 1996 and 1997 and are anticipated for 1998.

## **IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES**

None. Personnel changes were approved per the December 9, 1998 resolution.

## **IMPACT ON BUDGET**

No change from the budget approved on December 9, 1998. The state and federal governments provide 74% of the funding for this program, with 26% from the County. Of the County's share, 56% is in-kind and 44% is from the General Fund.

## **IMPACT ON SPACE NEEDS**

None

## **IMPACT ON TECHNOLOGY**

None

## **IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS**

Indirect costs are allowable per the contract and have been calculated to be \$37,168 for the contract period January 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999. An additional \$12,389 is anticipated to be allowable under the contract that covers the County's fourth quarter, October 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999.

## **IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES**

The number of cases the Prosecutor's CR Division opens and files has a direct impact on the amount of child support collected and enforced by the Friend of the Court.

## **CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES**

This request conforms to county policy.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD TO SIGN THE TITLE IV-D COOPERATIVE REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH THE MICHIGAN FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 1999 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 1999 FOR THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 1999 COOPERATIVE REIMBURES MEN PROGRAM

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 10, 1999

WHEREAS, for the past 25 years the Prosecuting Attorney's Office has operated a program with the Michigan Family Independence Agency for the prosecution of cases in connection with non-payment of child support; and

WHEREAS, the Prosecuting Attorney has been awarded a contract for the continuation of the Cooperative Reimbursement Program for the Fiscal Year 1999, and

WHEREAS, the contract supports a program at a staff level equivalent to 1998 and a budget level with an increase of 5.5% over 1998;

WHEREAS, the grant application authorizes reimbursement for expenditures for all Title IV-D related child support costs up to the funding cap amount of \$312,135 for the period of January 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999; and

WHEREAS, Prosecuting Attorney's Cooperative Reimbursement 1999 Budget has been amended to conform with the 1999 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Application; and

WHEREAS, December 9, 1998 adopted the amended 1999 Prosecuting Attorney's Cooperative Reimbursement Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Prosecuting Attorney has received approval of a Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Contract Agreement with the Family Independence Agency beginning January 1, 1999 and ending September 20, 1999.

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by the Finance Department, Corporation Counsel, Human Resources Department, Administrator's Office and the Ways and Means Committee,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Chair of the Board to sign the agreement with the Michigan Family Independence Agency for the 1999 Cooperative Reimbursement Program for the period January 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999 in the amount of \$312,135, as on file with the County Clerk

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