

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**  
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TO: Jeff Irwin, Chair  
Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel  
County Administrator

FROM: Judah Garber  
Friend of the Court, Washtenaw County Trial Court

DATE: October 5, 2005

SUBJECT: Cooperative Reimbursement Contract Application – Fiscal 2006 –  
Friend of the Court

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Office of the Friend of the Court is requesting that the Board of Commissioners ratify the signature of the County Administrator on the Cooperative Reimbursement Contract application: a contract with the Office of Child Support (a division of the Department of Human Services) to provide cost reimbursement in an amount up to \$3,607,748, excluding incentives, based on a maximum eligible IV-D expense budget of \$5,393,847 for Friend of the Court services provided pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act for the fiscal year 2006 beginning October 1, 2005.

**BACKGROUND:**

The majority of Friend of the Court revenue is derived from the Office of Child Support, a division of the state Department of Human Services (DHS, f/k/a FIA, f/k/a DSS), under the Cooperative Reimbursement Program. The state will reimburse the county for costs associated with establishing, collecting, and enforcing child support obligations in IV-D cases.

Washtenaw County Friend of the Court has participated in the Cooperative Reimbursement Program for many years. The program has been very successful and generally returns more than 60% of all monies expended by the Friend of the Court (including indirect costs) to the County general fund.

DHS is authorized to enter into Cooperative Reimbursement Agreements like the one before the Board under provisions of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, Chapter III,

Title 45, parts 302.32 and 304 of the Code of Federal Regulations and Michigan Compiled Laws, section 400.10.

## **DISCUSSION**

In 1998, DHS (then FIA) converted all Cooperative Reimbursement (CRP) contracts to be on the State's fiscal year cycle. The CRP contract we have applied for would be effective October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006.

Continuing the grant will assist the Friend of the Court in performing its "IV-D functions" of collecting, distributing and enforcing court ordered child support obligations, which in turn contributes to the well being of children under the jurisdiction of the Washtenaw County Trial Court. We currently have approximately 19,000 active child support cases, with each case having at least one child.

## **IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:**

The Friend of the Court will maintain its current staffing levels, factored into the application budget, including salary, fringe benefits and office supplies.

## **IMPACT ON BUDGET:**

The Trial Court's proposed budget includes an initial Cooperative Reimbursement Program budget in line with this application. The maximum amount of IV-D expenses eligible for reimbursement through this program will be \$5,393,847 for a total maximum state reimbursement of \$3,607,748, excluding incentives. As a result of State funding changes implemented in June 2005, the proposed budget includes personnel costs for 2.0 FTEs responsible for medical support enforcement. These positions were previously funded 100% by the State under a separate contract and will now be funded 66% with State funds and 34% with County funds.

## **IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:**

Indirect costs are allowable per the contract application guidelines and have been calculated for the contract period.

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

Any impact on other county departments or outside agencies will be only for the betterment of citizens, and of no detriment to County government. The division has collaborative relationships with many agencies, e.g. Court Services, the Prosecuting Attorney, the Public Defender, Dispute Resolution Center, HelpSource, the Attorney General, WorkFirst, and others.

## **CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:**

This request conforms to the general County policies and procedures.

**ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES:**

Grant application is attached.

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE SIGNATURE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ON THE FY 2006 TITLE IV-D COOPERATIVE REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT, FOR THE FRIEND OF THE COURT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,607,748 FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 19, 2005

WHEREAS, the Friend of the Court office has contracted with the Office of Child Support (a division of the Department of Human Services) to receive reimbursement for child support enforcement expenses for many years previous, including 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Friend of the Court has been offered and would like to accept a new grant to gain reimbursement for costs incurred from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006; and

WHEREAS, this agreement is based on the application, which provides reimbursement of costs for all Title IV-D related child support costs up to a maximum reimbursement of \$3,607,748 (based on maximum net eligible IV-D expenses of \$5,393,847) for the period of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006 as outlined in the application package and proposed contract; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Contract application is based on projections of the Friend of the Court's budget as reflected in the Trial Court's proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by the Chief Judge of the Trial Court, the Court Administrator, the County Administrator's Office, Corporation Counsel, Human Resources, Finance Office and the Ways and Means Committee

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the signature of the County Administrator to sign the fiscal year 2006 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Contract application with the Michigan Office of Child Support/Department of Human Services in the maximum reimbursement amount of \$3,607,748 for the year of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners takes the following actions contingent upon the receipt of the grant award in conformity with the application:

1. Authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award
2. Authorizing the Administrator to sign the delegate contracts upon review of Corporation Counsel, to be filed with the County Clerk.

