



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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TO: Barbara Bergman
Chair, Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Brian L. Mackie
Prosecuting Attorney

DATE: August 6, 2008

SUBJECT: 2008-2009 Cooperative Reimbursement Program

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney has completed an application for a contract to continue the Cooperative Reimbursement Program for the period of October 1, 2008, to September 30, 2009. I recommend that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners ratify the signature of the County Administrator on the application for funding to the Michigan Department of Human Services in the amount of \$779,000. This sum includes a County general fund appropriation of \$264,860 and a State and Federal match of \$514,140.

BACKGROUND

The Cooperative Reimbursement Division of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office has been in operation for the past 36 years. The Division is funded primarily by the State of Michigan under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, with matching funding by Washtenaw County. The purpose of the program is to establish orders of paternity and 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. All cases are referred to our office by the Washtenaw County Department of Human Services, Office of Child Support. Many clients are recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Medicaid. Other county residents are eligible for services upon application to the Department of Human Services.

Upon referral, the client is interviewed and the appropriate type of case is initiated. If a child has been born outside of a marriage and not legally acknowledged, a case is filed to establish paternity and order child support. Issues of custody and visitation may be resolved at that time.

If paternity has been established, by marriage or legal acknowledgement, an action for child support is filed against an absent parent.

In some circumstances where the non-custodial parent resides outside of Michigan, a case is filed under UIFSA (the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act) to obtain the same remedies. Cases are also filed on behalf of other states seeking to establish paternity and/or child support in actions involving residents of Washtenaw County.

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES

None. The staff of the Prosecutor's Cooperative Reimbursement Program continues at the same level and includes one Senior Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, one Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, one investigator and three legal assistants. A portion of the application will cover reimbursement of the County's contribution consisting of 15% of the Prosecuting Attorney's salary and fringe benefits and 20% of the Deputy Chief Assistant PA's salary and fringe benefits.

IMPACT ON BUDGET

The County's 2008 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 \$779,000 for a total maximum state reimbursement of \$514,140.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS

Indirect costs are allowable per grant guidelines and are estimated to be \$79,013 for the contract period.

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

The number of cases processed by the Prosecutor's Cooperative Reimbursement Division directly affects the amount of child support that it is ordered and then collected and enforced by the Friend of the Court. By continuing its high levels of efficiency and production, this unit is able to accommodate all referrals generated by the Department of Human Services as soon as they are received.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES

This request conforms to County policy.

ATTACHMENTS / APPENDICES

Resolution
Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Program Application

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE SIGNATURE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ON AN APPLICATION WITH THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR COOPERATIVE REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2008 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$779,000; \$264,860 IN LOCAL MATCH AND \$514,140 IN STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AUGUST 6, 2008

WHEREAS, for the past 36 years the Prosecuting Attorney's Office has operated a program under the Michigan Department of Human Services for the prosecution of cases for paternity and/or non-payment of child support; and

WHEREAS, the Prosecuting Attorney has completed an application for funding for the continuation of the Cooperative Reimbursement Program for Fiscal Year 2008-2009; and

WHEREAS, the application supports the program at the same staffing level; and

WHEREAS, the grant application authorizes expenditures which total \$779,000 of which \$514,140 is to be funded by the State and Federal Governments and \$264,860 is to be funded by the County; and

WHEREAS, the County's 2009 proposed budget includes an initial Cooperative Reimbursement Program budget in line with this application; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by the Finance Department, Human Resources Department, the Administrator's 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 on a Cooperative Reimbursement contract application with the Michigan Department of Human Services for the operation of the program in the Office of Prosecuting Attorney for the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009, for the amount of \$779,000 which includes \$264,860 in a local match and \$514,140 in State and Federal funds, as on file with the County Clerk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners takes the following actions contingent upon conformity of the grant award with the terms of the grant 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