



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

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

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

DATE: August 6, 2008

SUBJECT: 2008-2009 Cooperative Reimbursement Program

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 Program application for the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009: 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 \$3,723,550 excluding incentives, based on a maximum eligible IV-D expense budget of \$5,641,742 for Friend of the Court services provided pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act for the fiscal year 2009 beginning October 1, 2008. This sum includes a County General Fund appropriation of \$1,918,192.

BACKGROUND

The majority of Friend of the Court revenue is derived from the Office of Child Support, a division of the Michigan 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 Program (CRP) contracts to be on the State's fiscal year cycle. The CRP contract the Friend of the Court has applied for will be effective October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

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 18,100 active child support cases, with each case having at least one child.

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES

None. 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 County's 2009 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 \$5,641,742 for a total maximum state reimbursement of \$3,723,550, excluding incentives.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS

Indirect costs are allowable per the contract application guidelines and are estimated to be \$727,136 for the contract period.

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

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, Catholic Social Services, the Attorney General, WorkFirst, and others.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES

This request conforms to County policy.

ATTACHMENTS / APPENDICES

Resolution
FY 2009 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Program Application

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE SIGNATURE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ON THE APPLICATION FOR THE FY 2009 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 \$3,723,550 FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2008 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 6, 2008

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 2008; 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, 2008 through September 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, this agreement will be based on the application, which provides reimbursement of costs for all Title IV-D related child support costs up to a maximum reimbursement of \$3,723,550 (based on maximum net eligible IV-D expenses of \$5,641,742) for the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 as outlined in the application package and proposed contract; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 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 2009 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 on the fiscal year 2009 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Contract application with the Michigan Office of Child Support/Department of Human Services in the maximum reimbursement amount of \$3,723,550 for the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009, as on file with the County Clerk.

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 in conformity with the application/award upon review of Corporation Counsel, to be filed with the County Clerk.