



MARATHON COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 3:00pm**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403**

Committee Members: Matt Bootz, Chair; Jennifer Aarrestad, Vice-Chair; Ron Covelli, Bill Conway, Chantelle Foote, Randy Radtke, Yee Leng Xiong

Marathon County Mission Statement: Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)

Committee Mission Statement: Provide leadership for the implementation of the strategic plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing, and recommending to the County Board policies related to health and human services initiatives of Marathon County.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

Phone#: 1-408-418-9388 Access Code: 146 235 4571

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

The meeting will also be broadcasted on Public Access or at <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)** (Any person who wishes to address the committee during the "Public Comment" portion of the meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk, or chair of the committee, no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting. All comments must be germane to a topic within the jurisdiction of the committee.)
4. **Approval of the February 4, 2026, Health and Human Services Committee Meeting Minutes**
5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by HHSC
 1. SNAP Supplemental Funding Legislation
 - B. Discussion and Possible Action by HHSC to Forward to County Board for Consideration
 1. Fund Designation for Out of Home Placements
 2. Budget Amendment to Accept One-time Funding to the "Keeping Kids Safe and Putting Families First" Initiative
6. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
7. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items**
 - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
 - B. Next meeting: Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 3:00pm
8. **Adjournment**

*Any Person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 261.1500 or email countyclerk@marathoncounty.gov one business day before the meeting.

SIGNED s/s Matt Bootz
Presiding Officer or Designee

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and other Media Groups
EMAILED BY: _____
DATE & TIME: _____

NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE
BY: _____
DATE & TIME: _____



MARATHON COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA WITH MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: **Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 3:00pm**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403**

Matt Bootz	Present
Jennifer Aarrestad	Present
Bill Conway	Present
Ron Covelli	Present
Chantelle Foote	Present
Randy Radtke	Absent
Yee Leng Xiong	Web (3:05)

Staff Present: Administrator Leonhard, Candace Pesch, Brian Desmond, Kurt Gibbs, Laurie Miskimins, Vicky Tylka, Christa Jensen, Aaron Galindo, Mike Rhea

Others Present:

[Meeting Recording](#)

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Matt Bootz called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment** - None
4. **Approval of the January 7, 2026, Health and Human Services Committee Meeting Minutes (0:00.31)**
Motion by Aarrestad, Second by Covelli to approve the minutes. Motion carried on voice vote, unanimously.
5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by HHSC
 1. Request to Approve \$50 Donation from Russell and Jane Tonelli, into the Marathon County Veterans Service Commission. (0:00.55) Motion made by Covelli second by Foote to amend the 2026 Budget to accept the donation. Motion carried on voice vote unanimously.
 - B. Discussion and Possible Action by HHSC to Forward to County Board for Consideration
 1. Recommendation with Possible Action on Adding Homelessness to Comp Plan. (:06.56)
Motion made by Conway, second by Aarrestad to forward the objective for homelessness in the Comp Plan to the Executive Committee. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously.
6. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
 - A. Marathon County 2026 Comprehensive Plan Draft. (:20.11)
7. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items**
 - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
 - B. Next meeting: Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 3:00pm
8. **Adjournment**
Motioned by Conway, Second by Foote to adjourn. Motion Carried on voice vote, unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Kelley Blume



MARATHON COUNTY AGENDA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Health and Human Services Committee
FROM: Christa Jensen, Social Services Director
DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Governor Signs SNAP/FoodShare Bill – 2025 Wisconsin Act 116

Governor Tony Evers has signed Assembly Bill 180, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 116, which provides state funding and policy direction to support Wisconsin's FoodShare program in response to significant federal changes to SNAP. At the federal level, new requirements shift a substantially larger share of program administrative costs to states beginning in 2026 and impose strict penalties for elevated payment error rates. Without action, these changes could place Wisconsin taxpayers at risk of more than \$200 million annually in federal penalty fees.

Act 116 is intended to stabilize and strengthen FoodShare administration statewide and includes more than \$72 million in funding for the Department of Health Services. These resources support increased staffing, administrative functions, FoodShare Employment and Training participation, and quality control efforts needed to keep error rates below federal thresholds. The legislation also directs DHS to pursue federal waivers related to certain food item restrictions and establishes requirements for an electronic platform and associated data reporting.

This legislation is particularly important for counties, as county agencies administer key components of FoodShare and will be directly affected by federal cost shifts and performance standards. The Act helps maintain program accuracy, protect access to essential food assistance for Wisconsin residents, and reduce the risk of local operational or fiscal pressure tied to federal penalties.

At this time, DHS has not yet released information on how the additional administrative funding will be allocated at the state or county level. We will provide updates as these details become available.



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 23, 2026

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov

Gov. Evers Signs Key Bill to Support State’s Food Assistance Program, Prevent Wisconsin Taxpayers from Paying Over \$200 Million a Year in Potential Penalty Fees to Trump Administration

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today signed Assembly Bill (AB) 180, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 116, to support the state’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as FoodShare in Wisconsin, which provides food assistance to over 700,000 Wisconsinites, including 270,000 kids. The bill, which Gov. Evers and the Evers Administration have spent months urging Republican lawmakers to pass, is designed to reduce FoodShare payment errors and aimed at saving Wisconsin taxpayers from potentially having to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in penalty fees to the Trump Administration due to new changes under Republicans’ ‘Big Beautiful Bill.’

Under new federal changes, thanks to President Trump and Republicans’ so-called ‘Big Beautiful Bill,’ states will be forced to pay for a higher share of SNAP benefit costs if FoodShare payment error rates exceed certain thresholds. In Wisconsin, this could cost taxpayers an additional over \$200 million every year in penalty fees to the Trump Administration, on top of the [more than \\$284 million](#) Wisconsin taxpayers are already estimated to pay in future budgets. Gov. Evers has repeatedly urged Republican lawmakers to take quick action on the Evers Administration’s requests, which were among the governor’s [top legislative priorities](#) and [highlighted](#) in his 2026 State of the State address.

“After months of urging and asking the Legislature to approve these funds, I am glad to be able to sign this bill today so we can continue to provide for the over 700,000 Wisconsinites who rely on FoodShare and depend on the state to support this critical program and keep our error rates low,” said Gov. Evers. “In spite of the chaos at the federal level and the continued attacks on our

FoodShare program, I am proud of the work my administration has done over the past year to ensure our kids, families, veterans, and seniors across our state receive the resources they need to access basic food and groceries. As long as I am governor, I will continue to do everything in my power to protect Wisconsin families and taxpayers from the harmful decisions of the Trump Administration.”

Gov. Evers has been asking the Wisconsin State Legislature to approve funds to prevent Wisconsin taxpayers from having to pay penalty fees to the Trump Administration [since August](#), and after months of bipartisan negotiations between legislative leaders and the Evers Administration, [as amended](#), AB 180 would appropriate over \$72 million to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) for key resources, including funding for the FoodShare Employment and Training program, additional administrative costs that have been shifted onto the state, quality control initiatives to help keep FoodShare error rates low and avoid federal penalties, and more. During bipartisan budget negotiations, Republican leaders gave the governor their word that they would be willing to work together to address outstanding challenges caused by the ‘Big Beautiful Bill.’

“Ensuring the FoodShare program has the resources we need to meet new federal requirements is critical to maintaining access to essential nutrition benefits for Wisconsin families and saving Wisconsin taxpayer dollars. We are grateful to the Legislature for passing AB 180 with bipartisan support and to Gov. Evers for signing it into law,” said DHS Secretary Kirsten Johnson.

“DHS remains committed to administering the FoodShare program with accuracy, accountability, and in full alignment with federal requirements, while providing critical food assistance to Wisconsinites.”

Last year, Congressional Republicans passed President Trump’s signature legislation, the so-called ‘Big Beautiful Bill,’ which cut essential SNAP food assistance by about 20 percent by increasing red tape, gutting nutrition education programs, and forcing states to pay more for SNAP programs like Wisconsin’s FoodShare. Due to these changes, Wisconsinites are starting to lose access to basic food necessities, and independent grocers and convenience stores, which already operate on thin margins and are often the main source of food for Wisconsinites in rural areas, are increasingly concerned about their bottom line and keeping their doors open.

The funding appropriated through AB 180 would include \$32.3 million to cover the increase in the state’s share of administrative costs as a result of the ‘Big Beautiful Bill,’ which shifted 75 percent of administrative costs to states, as opposed to the current 50 percent, \$16.1 million for additional DHS and county staff positions to achieve and maintain a FoodShare error rate below six percent and avoid federal penalties, and \$20.7 million to support an increase in participation in the FoodShare Employment and Training program due to expanded work requirements.

The approval of these funds has been [publicly supported](#) by more than 160 nonpartisan organizations that have asked the Legislature to [take immediate action](#) by providing funding for these changes, noting that “additional delays in providing this funding will put Wisconsin taxpayers at risk of paying for increased costs and will negatively impact communities, businesses, and SNAP recipients across Wisconsin.”

More information regarding the state’s FoodShare program, including how to apply for and manage benefits, is available on [DHS’s website](#).

[Assembly Bill 180](#), now 2025 Wisconsin Act 116:

- Appropriates funding to the department and creates project positions to assist in the implementation of the requirements and to improve FoodShare quality control;
- Directs DHS to request and implement any waivers necessary to prohibit FoodShare enrollees from purchasing soft drinks, energy drinks, and candy with program benefits; and
- Creates requirements for an electronic platform, administration of the electronic platform, and data reporting.

An online version of this release is available [here](#).

###

Resolution #R-XX-26
RESOLUTION APPROVING OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT RESERVE INCREASE TO \$850,000

WHEREAS, Marathon County Social Services is charged with the safety of children; and

WHEREAS, when a child has been abused or neglected that child may need to be placed in an out-of-home placement to ensure the safety and well-being of the child and community; and

WHEREAS, the level of care that a child needs is determined by utilizing the state assessment tools, and

WHEREAS, out-of-home placements can be ordered by a judge and becomes the county's fiscal responsibility, and

WHEREAS, when is a child is placed outside of home the County undertakes efforts to ameliorate the conditions that caused the need for the out-of-home placement so that child can be returned safely to their home; and

WHEREAS, on November 12th,2024 the Marathon County Board of Supervisor approved R-55-24 establishing a \$400,000 Out of Home Placement reserve within the Social Improvement Fund

WHEREAS, the cost for out-of-home placements continues to increase. The state correction care daily rates will increase 51% on July 1, 2026 to \$758 per day. Below is the 2025 annual average cost of single placement and is anticipated to experience increases annually;

	2025 Annual Average Cost of Single Placement
Residential Care Center	\$308,592
High Cost-Residential Care Center	\$328,500
Group Home	\$193,512
Treatment Foster Home	\$74,520
Level 5 Treatment Foster Care	\$596,865
Foster Home	\$9,072
Court Ordered Kinship	\$4,500
Long Term Guardianship-Kinship	\$4,500
Voluntary Kinship	\$4,500
Subsidized Guardianship	\$10,178
Correctional Care	\$182,868

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors hereby approves to increase the out-of-home reserve from \$400,000 to \$850,000.

Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____ Absent _____ [] Voice Vote

Approved and adopted this 21st day of April, 2026.

Denied this 21st day of April, 2026.

Approved as to Form:

SEAL

Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel

Approved as to Financial Impact (if necessary)

Attest:

Samantha Fenske, Finance Director

Kim Trueblood, Marathon County Clerk

Fiscal Impact: Approval of this resolution would allow the out-of-home reserve in the Social Improvement's committed funds to increase to \$850,000.



MARATHON COUNTY AGENDA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marathon County Finance Committee.

FROM: Christa Jensen, Social Services Director

DATE: 3/26/2026

SUBJECT: Budget Amendment - One-Time ARPA Allocation for Child Welfare and Youth Justice Services

Purpose

This memo provides an update on new one-time American Rescue Plan Act – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA-SLFRF) awarded through the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF). These funds will be added to our existing state/county child welfare contract through an amendment.

Marathon County will receive \$178,504.52. This amount is part of the statewide distribution of \$8.25 million designated to support the “Keeping Kids Safe and Putting Families First” initiative.

Funds may be used to support children and families involved in, or at risk of involvement in, child protective services or youth justice. The intention is to prevent deeper system involvement, reduce out-of-home placements, and support family stability. All costs must be incurred and reported by December 31, 2026.


We look forward to utilizing these resources to enhance our prevention efforts and improve outcomes for the families we serve.

March 25, 2026

To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: John Elliott
Administrator

Re: **New One-Time Funding for County and Tribal Contracts**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memo is to notify local county and tribal child protective agencies of the allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act-State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA-SLFRF) to counties and tribes for allowable costs to support kids and families.

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) has provided the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families with \$8,250,000 of ARPA State Recovery Funds to support "Keeping Kids Safe and Putting Families First Initiative". This funding will be distributed to county and tribal social or human service agencies and the Milwaukee County Human Services Department Youth Justice program through a contract amendment.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

DCF will distribute approximately \$8.250 million to counties, Milwaukee County, and tribal agencies through a contract amendment to the state/county child welfare and a direct contract with all tribes. Funding will be distributed to agencies using a blended methodology: 2026 Youth Aids methodology and the methodology developed collaboratively between DCF and the Wisconsin County Human Services Association in August 2021. This methodology uses local child poverty and SNAP data as indices for child and family need and vulnerability. Additionally, \$50,000 will be offered to all 11 federally recognized tribes located in Wisconsin's borders. Please see Appendix 1 for the agency specific allocation amounts.

DCF will distribute these funds to serve families involved in or at risk of involvement in the child protective services and/or youth justice system in order to prevent deeper system involvement and maintain children in the home. The following allowable purposes will be allowed under this contract amendment:

These funds are intended to advance the purposes of keeping children safe, increasing parental protective capacities, decreasing out of home placements, helping families develop informal supports, reducing maltreatment of children, and keeping families intact. Funds may be used to serve families involved in or at risk of involvement in the child protective services and/or youth justice system in order to prevent deeper system involvement and maintain a child in the home. Allowable expenses include:

- Case management
- Mental health, AODA, in-home health, and crisis services
- Parenting education and assistance
- Peer Support
- Concrete supports including but not limited to:
 - Food/Clothing Services
 - Housing Assistance
 - Household support
 - Transportation
 - Recreational activities
- Respite
- Social supports
- Supervision/observation
- Basic home management
- Services needed to address issues related to a child-specific need or circumstance

The amendment to the state/county child welfare contract and tribal contract will be routed soon for local agency signature. All costs must be incurred and reported in SPARC by December 31, 2026, followed by a 60-day reporting period. Further details on SPARC lines and reporting deadlines will be outlined in the amendments to the state/county child welfare and tribal contract. There will be no carryover or reobligation of funding.

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT: DCF Area Administrator

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Megan Learn, Child Welfare Budget and Policy Analyst
Fiscal and Support Services Section – BCRA - DSP
megan.learn@wisconsin.gov

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Appendix 1

County	Award Amount
Adams	\$ 33,251.72
Ashland	\$ 27,775.82
Barron	\$ 63,086.72
Bayfield	\$ 26,216.76
Brown	\$ 355,559.92
Buffalo	\$ 11,973.35
Burnett	\$ 27,995.71
Calumet	\$ 39,797.96
Chippewa	\$ 79,471.87
Clark	\$ 69,671.09
Columbia	\$ 59,825.66
Crawford	\$ 22,978.88
Dane	\$ 699,724.36
Dodge	\$ 89,112.96
Door	\$ 28,255.54
Douglas	\$ 82,664.75
Dunn	\$ 46,138.27
Eau Claire	\$ 120,663.67
Florence	\$ 11,845.16
Fond du Lac	\$ 126,048.71
Forest	\$ 13,578.07
Grant	\$ 64,608.21
Green	\$ 34,448.93
Green Lake	\$ 24,151.49
Iowa	\$ 23,331.05
Iron	\$ 11,459.30
Jackson	\$ 33,378.25
Jefferson	\$ 83,815.67
Juneau	\$ 39,325.56
Kenosha	\$ 341,195.51
Kewaunee	\$ 17,140.94
La Crosse	\$ 131,017.84
Lafayette	\$ 25,475.47
Langlade	\$ 41,816.70
Lincoln	\$ 43,421.69

Manitowoc	\$ 91,653.65
Marathon	\$ 178,504.52
Marinette	\$ 60,750.62
Marquette	\$ 18,705.37
Menominee	\$ 43,685.99
Milwaukee	\$ 1,434,025.08
Monroe	\$ 84,435.50
Oconto	\$ 42,275.83
Oneida	\$ 56,658.80
Outagamie	\$ 202,338.32
Ozaukee	\$ 52,153.85
Pepin	\$ 12,456.00
Pierce	\$ 31,726.70
Polk	\$ 52,598.31
Portage	\$ 73,874.96
Price	\$ 21,422.67
Racine	\$ 402,683.03
Richland	\$ 26,105.24
Rock	\$ 314,640.88
Rusk	\$ 27,125.99
Saint Croix	\$ 66,217.36
Sauk	\$ 84,304.11
Sawyer	\$ 28,506.12
Shawano	\$ 65,881.28
Sheboygan	\$ 148,967.10
Taylor	\$ 31,518.62
Trempealeau	\$ 36,990.35
Vernon	\$ 48,021.76
Vilas	\$ 42,621.44
Walworth	\$ 109,565.14
Washburn	\$ 21,298.49
Washington	\$ 110,039.76
Waukesha	\$ 279,590.68
Waupaca	\$ 66,437.37
Waushara	\$ 34,612.04
Winnebago	\$ 212,292.46
Wood	\$ 135,091.05

Tribe	Award Amount
Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe	\$ 50,000.00
Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin	\$ 50,000.00
Lac Courte Oreilles Band	\$ 50,000.00
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	\$ 50,000.00
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	\$ 50,000.00
Oneida Nation	\$ 50,000.00
Forest County Potawatomi Community, Wisconsin	\$ 50,000.00
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin	\$ 50,000.00
Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Wisconsin	\$ 50,000.00
St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin	\$ 50,000.00
Stockbridge Munsee Community, Wisconsin	\$ 50,000.00

RESOLUTION #R-_____-26

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE SOCIAL SERVICES 2026 BUDGET BY \$178,505

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) has provided one-time American Rescue Plan Act – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA-SLFRF) allocation to our current state/county child welfare contract, and

WHEREAS, the original 2026 budget did not anticipate this funding; and

WHEREAS, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors adopted the 2026 budget on November 11, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statute §65.90(5) requires a two-thirds vote of the Board to amend the adopted budget; and

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Committee approved this resolution on April 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee approved this resolution on April 8, 2026; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors hereby amends the 2026 budget to increase revenues by \$178,505 and expenditures by \$178,505 to reflect the additional awarded amount:

	Amount	Fund		Department		Spend or Revenue Category		Grant Number
INCREASE	\$ 178,505	291	Grants Fund	CC_54509	Child Welfare	RC_43250	Grant Revenue	GR-008012
INCREASE	\$ 178,505	291	Grants Fund	CC_54509	Child Welfare	SC_57170	Direct Payments	GR-008012

FISCAL NOTE: This resolution increases the budget by \$178,505 in grant revenues and by \$178,505 in wage and fringe expenditures

LEGAL NOTE: As a budget amendment, this resolution requires approval of 2/3 of the County Board of Supervisors.

**Health and Human Services Committee
Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee**

Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____ Absent _____ [] Voice Vote

Approved and adopted this 21st day of April, 2026.

Denied this 21st day of April, 2026.

Approved as to Form:

SEAL

Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel

Approved as to Financial Impact (if necessary)

Attest:

Samantha Fenske, Finance Director

Kim Trueblood, Marathon County Clerk



MARATHON COUNTY AGENDA MEMORANDUM

TO: Marathon County Health and Human Services Committee
FROM: Christa Jensen, Social Services Director
 Samantha Fenske, Finance Director
DATE: April 1, 2026
SUBJECT: Increase out-of-home placement reserve to \$850,000

Action Requested

We are requesting to increase the out-of-home placement reserve from \$400,000 to \$850,000.

Background

On November 12, 2024, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors approved authorizing a commitment of \$400,000 of Social Improvement Funds to establish a reserve for out-of-home placements. These funds would only be allowed to be utilized if the costs for out-of-home placements exceeded the budgeted amount for the year.

While the State of Wisconsin proposed increases in the 2025-2027 State Department of Corrections from \$804 to \$1,268, the final action did reduce the rate to \$501 for 7/1/25-6/30/26 and \$758 (51%) for 7/1/26-6/30/27. It is anticipated to increase for the next budget cycle.

Residential Care Center placement costs increased 28% from \$240,704/year to \$308,592 between 2024 and 2025. Treatment Foster Care increased 44% from \$51,854 to \$74,520.

Other placements remained the same or experienced slight decreases.

	2025 Annual Average Cost of Single Placement	2024 Annual Average Cost of Single Placement	Percent Change from 2024 to 2025
Residential Care Center	\$308,592	\$ 240,704.00	28%
High Cost-Residential Care Center	\$328,500	\$ 328,500.00	0%
Group Home	\$193,512	\$ 199,897.00	-3%
Treatment Foster Home	\$74,520	\$ 51,854.00	44%
Level 5 Treatment Foster Care	\$596,865	\$ 596,865.00	0%
Foster Home	\$9,072	\$ 10,403.00	-13%
Court Ordered Kinship	\$4,500	\$ 4,500.00	0%
Long Term Guardianship-Kinship	\$4,500	\$ 4,500.00	0%
Voluntary Kinship	\$4,500	\$ 4,500.00	0%
Subsidized Guardianship	\$10,178	\$ 10,178.00	0%
Correctional Care	\$182,868	\$ 474,390.00	-61%

Governing Statute/Ordinance/Policy

Resolution R-55-24

Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 938

Discussion/Analysis

For the 2025 budget cycle, the Social Improvement Fund has made it possible to increase the reserve to a level specifically designed to address unpredictable or significant increases in out-of-home placement costs. Out-of-home placements can be ordered by a judge and become the county's fiscal responsibility. Given the volatility of these costs and the ongoing uncertainty surrounding state and federal funding, creating this reserve is a proactive measure to help mitigate financial risk. By setting aside sufficient funds, we can better prepare for unexpected fluctuations in expenses and safeguard against potential budget shortfalls related to out-of-home placements.

Recommendation

To increase the current reserve from \$400,000 to \$850,000.

Attachments and References

Historical information relative to Marathon County's out-of-home placements and the budgeting for those placements is contained in the 2026 Annual Budget, available here -

<https://www.marathoncounty.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/16478/638983699807170000>

Resolution R-55-24

RESOLUTION #R-55-24

To Establish a Reserve in the Social Improvement Fund to be Used for Out-of-Home Placements

WHEREAS, Marathon County Social Services is charged with the safety of children and may need to place them in out-of-home placements to ensure the safety and well-being of the child and community. The level of care is determined by utilizing the state assessment tools, and

WHEREAS, the daily rate approved by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families for residential settings in the State of Wisconsin is \$804 (2024 rate) and correctional facilities are \$1,268. There are proposed changes that will potentially increase the correctional rate by 82% for the 2025-2027 State Department of Corrections biannual budget, and

WHEREAS, the projected average cost of out-of-home placements per child is listed below for 2025

	Annual Average Cost of Single Placement
Residential Care Center	\$ 240,704
High Cost-Residential Care Center	\$ 328,500
Group Home	\$ 199,897
Treatment for Foster Home	\$ 51,854
Level 5 Treatment Foster Care	\$ 596,865
Foster Home	\$ 10,403
Court Ordered Kinship	\$ 4,500
Long Term Guardianship-Kinship	\$ 4,500
Voluntary Kinship	\$ 4,500
Subsidized Guardianship	\$ 10,178
Correctional Care	\$ 474,390

WHEREAS, In order to accommodate variability in out-of-home placement costs, the Social Improvement Fund will commit \$400,000 of their fund balance to be used for out-of-home placements. A reserve of up to \$400,000 will be kept within the Social Improvement Fund to be replenished annually with excess revenues from the annual operating budget within the Social Improvement Fund. These funds will remain committed and will only be used to fund out-of-home placements beyond the budgeted amounts in any given year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors does approve and authorize the commitment of \$400,000 in the Social Improvement Fund to be used for out-of-home placements beyond the budgeted amounts in the given year and be replenished annually from excess revenues within the Social Improvement Fund's operating budget.

Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee

Ayes 36 Nays 1 Abstain 0 Absent 1 [] Voice Vote

Approved and adopted this 12th day of November, 2024

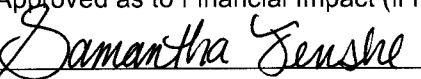
Denied this 12th day of November, 2024

Approved as to Form:



Michael Puerner, Corporation Counsel



Approved as to Financial Impact (if necessary)


Samantha Fenske, Finance Director

Attest:


Kim Trueblood, Marathon County Clerk