

Reinstate Funding for Public Assistance Fraud Program

The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:

- **That the State of Wisconsin adequately funds the Public Assistance Fraud Program.**

Douglas County has operated a Public Assistance Fraud Program since April 1986. The State of Wisconsin was funding Douglas County to operate the program. On March 19, 2009, Douglas County received information that the statewide Public Assistance Fraud Program funding will be cut from \$1.8 million in 2009 to \$0.00 in 2010.

The funding we were receiving is from the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Bureau of Program Integrity, Division of Health Care Access and Accountability.

In 2008, Douglas County began a Pilot Program at a cost of \$47,052. We saved \$350,510 in future savings (overpayments). This was a Cost-Benefit Ratio of \$7.43 for every dollar spent. The cost savings for 2009 is not available at this time.

Statewide Economic Support/Income Maintenance Programs are also taking a 10% cut in order to fund Milwaukee County's Economic Support Department. The State is now running Milwaukee County's Income Maintenance Program at a cost of \$14 million. This is over and above what Milwaukee County is already receiving.

The State receives funding from the Federal government for the Fraud Program under the Economic Support, Income Maintenance Programs. The specific programs under the Income Maintenance are Food Stamps, Child Care, W-2, Emergency Assistance, Badger Care Plus, and MA Transportation.

What type of program integrity/accountability will there be with no Public Assistance Fraud Program in Wisconsin when the funding is cut?

The State of Wisconsin should be using Douglas County Fraud Investigator/Fraud Prevention Program as a model for the rest of the State.

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