

Reinstate Funding for Public Assistance Fraud Program

The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:

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

Douglas County has operated a Public Assistance Fraud Program since April 1986. The State of Wisconsin was providing funding to Douglas County to operate this 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 source was 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. It resulted in \$350,510 in future savings (overpayments). This was a Cost-Benefit Ratio of \$7.43 for every dollar spent.

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, and 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.

Program integrity and accountability will be hindered with the funding cut to the Public Assistance Fraud Program as fraud may be limited to what is required by the State/County contracts for Economic Support.

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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