

22 EAST MIFFLIN STREET, SUITE 900 MADISON, WI 53703 TOLL FREE: 1.866.404.2700 PHONE: 608.663.7188 FAX: 608.663.7189 www.wicounties.org

For Immediate Release Contact: Mark D. O'Connell Executive Director 866.404.2700 February 28, 2019

WCA Commends Governor Evers' Budget for Prioritizing Critical County Services Impacting Children and Families

Governor Evers' 2019-2021 Executive Budget proposal introduced on February 28, 2019 includes a number of priorities positively affecting the children and families served by counties every day.

"Wisconsin's counties are on the front lines of the meth and opioid epidemic, which is profoundly impacting our children and families in all corners of the state," said Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Executive Director Mark D. O'Connell. "We greatly appreciate the additional resources Governor Evers has included in his state budget that will assist counties in serving residents touched by this rampant problem."

Other items in the budget related to the provision of county services to children and families include increased funding for child welfare, child support, juvenile corrections, and the children's long-term support program.

The budget also recognizes the unique partnership between the state and counties through additional investment in shared revenue, local transportation aids, conservation, and other areas.

"Maintaining a strong partnership between counties and the state is critical to ensuring Wisconsin remains an attractive state to live, work, and raise a family," said O'Connell. "Counties look forward to working with the Governor and Legislature over the coming months to ensure the state-county partnership is prioritized during this budget process."

The Wisconsin Counties Association represents the interests of county governments at both the state and federal levels and is located in Madison, Wisconsin. Learn more at www.wicounties.org and find WCA on Facebook and Twitter (@WisCounties).