

RESOLUTION NO. 6-0501

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF IOWA COUNTY

WHEREAS, Youth Aids was created in 1982 to provide each county with an annual allocation of state funds from which a county would pay for juvenile justice related costs, and

WHEREAS, in 2000, counties received approximately \$86.5 million in Youth Aids funding, while the total county juvenile justice costs exceeded \$207 million annually, and

WHEREAS, according to the Legislative Audit Bureau, from 1992 to 1997, the county costs for juvenile justice out-of-home placement dispositions increased from \$89 million to \$129.5 million or by 45.5%, and

WHEREAS, in Iowa County, juvenile justice costs for calendar year 1999 were \$326,010 and out-of-home costs were \$209,245 while the Youth Aids allocation was \$ 171,739, and

WHEREAS, rising costs associated with out-of-home placement expenditures and inadequate state funding means that limited dollars are available for earlier community-based intervention services, and

WHEREAS, research has shown that community-based programs, compared to institutional care, more effectively:

- provide long term community safety through the reduction of recidivism by engaging juveniles in constructive and meaningful community-based activities;
- ensure that juvenile offenders are held accountable through active participation in activities to restore the harm caused by crime and to pay back the community;
- enhance the skills of youthful offenders to engage in sustaining employment;
- re-engage the offender with appropriate peers and adults to provide long term reinforcement for involvement in responsible activities; and
- build upon the strengths of community members and reinforce the community's key role in crime prevention; and

WHEREAS, counties have long argued that community-based program funding is needed to stop the tide of juvenile graduating to the adult criminal justice system,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors supports the following proposal developed by the Wisconsin County Human Service Association:

- that the State fund 20% of a county's annual out-of-home placement costs out of General Purpose Revenues (GPR);
- that the county reinvest that 20% into community-based juvenile justice programs, and
- that the county evaluate and document the success or failure of those programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to all area Legislators, Governor Scott McCallum, DOA Secretary George Lighthorn, DOC Secretary Jon Lischer, the Wisconsin County Human Service Association and the Wisconsin Counties Association.