

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY PROGRAM WORKSHEET**  
**February 16, 2005**

Department: Child Support Enforcement Agency

Date: March 22, 2005

<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Mandated</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Service Level Required</b>	<b>2004 Actual Expense</b>	<b>2005 Budgeted Expense</b>	<b>2005 Budgeted Grants/Fees Revenue</b>	<b>2005 Tax Levy</b>
<b>Child Support</b>	<b>The administration of the program which establishes paternity for non-marital children, establishes and enforces child and medical support orders, maintains financial records of orders and payments. Full service is provided to 5,148 cases; financial record-keeping is provided to another 1,671 cases.</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$1,114,011</b>	<b>\$1,149,012</b>	<b>\$1,094,098</b>	<b>\$54,914</b>

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY PROGRAM EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**February 16, 2005**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** For each program, list the Scheduled Review Date, the Department, the Department Mission Statement and the Program Title at the top of the page, and answer the following questions for each program. The overall response for each program should be no greater than two (2) pages in length.

**SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE:** March 22, 2005

**DEPARTMENT:** Child Support Enforcement Agency

**DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT:**

To ensure adequate financial and medical support for families through an aggressive approach in locating obligors, establishing and enforcing court-ordered child support and medical coverage and in the establishment of paternity and child support collection for non-marital children, so that all families can reduce their reliance on public assistance, and achieve financial independence.

**PROGRAM:** Child Support

1. **Describe the program, its purpose and goals.**

Title IV-D of the Social Security Act created the Child Support Program in 1975. All states are required to have a Child Support Program. In Wisconsin, the State administers County-operated programs through a State/County contract covering the Administration of Child and Spousal Support and Establishment of Paternity and Medical Support Liability programs. The program is regulated by 45CFR300-399 and Wis. Stat. S. 49.22, 59.53(5), 767 and 769, plus numerous administrative codes.

The program encourages parental responsibility and offers social, economic, and medical benefits to families. Program goals include financial support for children by establishing and/or enforcing support orders, establishing paternity for non-marital children (assuring them rights to a legal father and access to family background and medical histories), reduced public assistance costs and economic independence, and health insurance coverage.

Case management and financial record-keeping are done through KIDS (Kids Information Data System). Many collection tools are used including income withholding, tax refund and lottery intercept, unemployment insurance intercept, lien docket, license suspension, passport denial, financial account seizure, contempt of court, criminal non-support charges and interstate remedies.

2. **Who is the program intended to serve? How many are served?**

The program provides mandatory services to all public assistance recipients (people receiving MA, Food Stamps, W-2, Child Care, Kinship Care), continuing services to all former public assistance recipients, and to individuals not receiving any form of public aid who make direct application for services. We also provide services to the Department of Human Services for Substitute Care cases. The above combined services listed involve 5,148 cases.

Staff of the Child Support Agency also maintain the financial records (support orders and payments) and do income withholding for cases not falling into any of the above categories but which have court orders for support. These activities involve another 1,671 cases.

3. **Are the program benefits long-lasting and essential to the service populations?**

Child support orders cover a child's minority (age 19, if still in high school). Involvement of the Child Support Agency results in monetary support orders and orders for health insurance. The benefit is obvious, that is, the economic well-being of children is enhanced, and the need for public assistance benefits is lessened. Establishing paternity for non-marital children not only results in these benefits but also has the benefit of providing the child with a legitimate father, which is a life long benefit.

4. **Is this program directly or indirectly related to or does it support any other program in this department or another department? If so, how?**

This program directly relates to:

1. Health and Human Services: mandatory referrals to the Child Support Agency are required for specific cases. The Child Support Agency's collections helps Health and Human Services reduce the cost of their programs.
2. Corporation Counsel: provides legal representation for the Child Support Agency's 1200+ cases sent to court.
3. Circuit Courts and Family Court Commissioner: enforcement and establishment of orders

4. Clerk of Courts: family and paternity cases are filed with the Clerk of Courts' office. The Clerk of Courts office provides support services to the courts for our cases.
5. Sheriff's Department: provides service of process for the various papers we need to serve on the parents in our cases.
6. District Attorney: prosecutes criminal non-support cases upon referral from the Child Support Agency.

Indirectly relates to:

1. Register of Deeds: automated child support lien docket.

Expenditures relative to paper service and staff wages and benefits are paid to the Sheriff's Department, the Corporation Counsel the District Attorney and the Family Court Commissioner.

5. **How does this program make the department or county government more effective or efficient, including any intergovernmental relationship?**

Successful enforcement action by the Child Support Agency deters many families from the need for Economic Support assistance or lessens the amount of assistance that is needed.

Also, there are many situations that are handled administratively or through stipulation by the Child Support Agency that would otherwise end up burdening the Court system of Sheboygan County.

6. **How do you determine/measure if this program has been effectively provided and implemented?**

Success of the Child Support Agency program is measured by the State from data obtained by the KIDS system. This data determines the amount of performance-based incentive funding, which is predicated upon the level of performance in measured areas as follows: Court Order Establishment, Paternity Establishment, Current Support Collected and Arrears Cases with Collection.

Sheboygan County Child Support Program has consistently exceeded the Statewide average level of the above performance measures. We have historically performed at or above the target level for medium sized counties.

7. **Could the county cost-effectively subcontract this program?**

No, the only exception would be legal services which may be contracted. Under Wis. Stats. 59.53(5), the County Board of Supervisors and its designated Child Support Agency shall contract with the Department of Workforce Development for the implementation and administration of the Child and Spousal Support, Establishment of Paternity and Medical Support Liability Program provided for by Title IV of the Federal Social Security Act and Wis. Stat. S. 49.22.

8. **State the numerical ranking of this program compared to all programs in your department and briefly explain.**

The ranking of the Child Support Enforcement Program is one (1) as it is the only program in the department. There are various activities which are performed, but they all relate to each of the other activities within the department.

9. **Are there current alternatives to this program available in the community? Can this program be provided through alternative arrangements with other providers?**

No, to both questions. At this time, there are no alternatives or providers available to perform the Child Support Program in this community.

10. **If this program were eliminated, what would be the ramifications for the County (i.e., added risk, liability or legal issues)?**

If the Child Support Program were to be eliminated, the primary ramification would be to the customers of our program. We would no longer be able to get the financial support the children and families of Sheboygan County need to maintain their lifestyles. The County would also lose the revenue the Child Support Agency generates by meeting or exceeding the performance standards and collecting on medical assistance debts. If the State had to employ an entity to provide the services, it would likely be at a greater expense to the County than is now incurred. This situation has never occurred in the State.

11. **What is the program impact and effectiveness related to the program cost? (Provide data if available.)**

The cost of the Child Support Program in Sheboygan County for 2005 is estimated to be \$1,114,011 with projected revenue of \$1,170,684. The tax levy directly attributable to the Child Support Agency in 2005 is \$56,674. The cost per case to Sheboygan County is \$8.31. The cost without revenue would be \$163.37, which is a bargain when compared with other programs that benefit children.

12. **Is this program currently duplicated by another county department or provider in the community?**

No, Sheboygan County Child Support Agency is the only provider of the services.