



**LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN**  
**LIVINGSTON COUNTY TRIAL COURTS**  
**JUVENILE & PROBATE DIVISIONS**

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## Memorandum

**To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners**

**From: Deborah Shaw, Juvenile & Probate Court Administrator**

**Date: November 3, 2021**

**Re: Resolution Authorizing the Livingston County Juvenile Court to Apply for  
and Accept Funding from the Michigan Supreme Court, State Court  
Administrative Office Child Welfare Services Division,  
Court Improvement Program COVID-19 Supplemental Grant**

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Congress has granted one-time supplemental Court Improvement Program (CIP) funding to the Michigan Supreme Court to address the unique challenges facing juvenile courts stemming from the COVID-19 public health emergency to ensure that the safety, permanency, and well-being needs of children in foster care are met in a timely manner. The Michigan Supreme Court, through the State Court Administrative Office Child Welfare Services Division (SCAO-CWS), has invited local courts to apply for up to \$30,000 per court to ensure that foster care cases continue towards permanency despite the pandemic. Projects must fall into the following four purpose areas:

1. Administrative Solutions to Resolve Backlog of Child Protection Cases Due to Covid-19
2. Access to Technology to Increase Party Participation
3. Compensate Attorneys to Attend Out of Court Client Meetings or Handle Ancillary Legal Matters to Expedite Safe Permanency
4. Other strategies to help avoid delays in legal proceedings or to assist juvenile courts with needs that have resulted from COVID-19

There is no backlog of child welfare cases (purpose area 1) in Livingston County. However, COVID mitigation efforts and the 50% increase in cases during 2020 have resulted in challenges this grant will address. The court proposes to use grant funds to address purpose areas 2 – 4 by providing internet access to families; compensating attorneys for out of court client meetings and providing ancillary legal service; providing additional Bailiff/Court Security hours to support the mobile courtroom and expanding the Court Appointed Special Advocates program.

All grant funding must be obligated by September 30, 2022 and liquidated by December 30, 2022. No County match or cost-sharing is required. No additional staff positions are included to carry out this grant proposal. If awarded, funding would begin on January 1, 2022. It is not anticipated that there will be a formal contract to sign as part of a grant award.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of the Livingston County Trial Courts.