

Forest/Oneida/Vilas Human/Social Services
General Information about Feasibility Study of Human Services
January 2024

- The County Boards for Forest/Oneida/Vilas Counties recently passed resolutions which may modify the governance and management structures for the Counties' Human and Social Services.
- Human and social services provided by the Counties include behavioral health (mental health, substance use) services, developmental disability services for children, child protection and child/family welfare services, juvenile justice services, income maintenance, and in some Counties, aging services.
- The Counties remain responsible for providing public human/social services, existing services will continue to be offered as the Counties consider changes.
- The changes being considered are about how county agencies are structured and how agencies manage programs and services for county residents. These changes are not focused on individual programs.
- Any changes which may occur to management structures would take effect late in the calendar year of 2024.
- In the 1980s, WI State Statutes (Chapter 46.23) were developed to allow Counties choices in how they manage public human/social services, in particular options were created to allow governance and management structures which combine services provided by multiple agencies into unified organizations.
- Since these State Statutes were developed, 64 of the 72 counties in Wisconsin have opted to change the structures by which human/social services are provided.
- Counties that are considering changes to human/social services agency structures are required to complete a Feasibility Study which engages Stakeholders in discussions about the best way to manage services in the Counties.
- Forest/Oneida/Vilas Counties have begun a Feasibility Study, the Study is expected to be complete by the end of March 2024.
- If the Feasibility Study recommends changes to the existing governance and management of services an Implementation Plan will be created. The Implementation Plan would offer details about how County agencies would be structured and how services will be managed in the Counties.

- If an Implementation Plan is needed it would be developed after the Feasibility Study is completed (spring/summer of 2024).
- A wide group of Stakeholders is being invited to participate in the Feasibility Study. This includes County Board officials, local providers of human/social services, and individuals and families who are receiving or may have received services from the Counties.
- People interested in participating in the Feasibility Study should express their interest by sending an email to the following address: oneidadss@oneidacountywi.gov The email will be checked regularly. People who wish to submit comments or suggestions may do so through this email address. Please leave contact information including an email address or phone number if you would like a reply.
- Any changes to the structure of county agencies would be completed to strengthen and enhance the services provided to county residents today.