



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 23, 2021

CONTACT: Benson Gardner
Communications and Development Manager
608.620.0711 | bgardner@wistaf.org

Statement about Civil Legal Aid Budget Proposals

WAUKESHA — April Rockstead Barker, president of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation, Inc. (WisTAF), issued the following statement about Gov. Evers' budget proposal:

"As the state's designated channel for civil legal aid administration, WisTAF applauds measures in Gov. Tony Evers' budget proposal which would improve Wisconsin from the status of the outlying, low-level funder of civil legal aid in the Upper Midwest to parity with most nearby states.

"Civil legal aid is not only a justice issue. It helps Wisconsinites address issues aggravated by COVID-19. It's also a smart investment of the state's resources.

"Civil legal aid providers help people achieve safety and self-sufficiency when faced with life-altering challenges. Helping people overcome barriers to join the workforce, economy, and tax base provides benefits to our entire society, socially and economically.

"Civil legal aid enjoys bipartisan support. The proposed new investment of \$5 million, while still short of demand in the system, would be a laudable step forward. WisTAF looks forward to working with lawmakers as they move through the budget process."

WisTAF is a nonprofit organization established by the Wisconsin Supreme Court to administer civil legal aid. WisTAF works with civil legal aid organizations in the state to increase access to justice. The foundation oversees funds and invests in services and projects to help people resolve legal problems.

#####

Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation, Inc.
4600 American Parkway, Suite 104 | Madison, WI 53718
phone: 608.257.6845 | toll-free: 877.749.5045
email: service@wistaf.org | www.wistaf.org