

Community

Community Response



HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER?

When Community Response workers are made aware of concerns regarding children's safety, they meet with families to assess families' needs and strengths. Rather than focusing on the details of a specific incident, Community Response workers and families focus on the safety of children and families' strengths to address concerns.

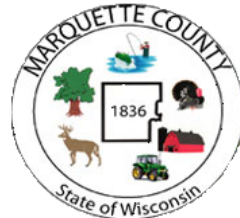
They also discuss families' needs. Community Response workers then offer to help families meet their needs. They connect families with resources in their communities or through their informal support systems.

Your Community Response Worker is:

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Children's Trust Fund
Grant Supported Program

Receiving a call or visit from a social worker employed by the county can be frightening, especially if families are already struggling with stressful family issues. They may feel shame or anger at being referred, and threatened by the possibility of government involvement in their lives. It is important to assist families who need help to keep children safe. Community Response offers this opportunity.

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What is Community Response?

Community Response is a program that responds to child safety concerns by:

- Ensuring children are safe
- Avoiding negative labels for parents
- Setting aside the issue of fault
- Working in partnership with parents
- Assisting families in identifying strengths and needs
- Providing services matched to families' needs
- Providing assistance with basic needs, such as: food, clothing, and shelter



Why use Community Response?

Community Response is based on the belief that parents care for their children and want them to be safe. Sometimes parents need help to make that happen. Community Response can provide that help. When there is a serious and immediate risk of harm to children, child protection services must conduct an investigation.

How is a response chosen?

When your county accepts a report of child safety concerns they must either refer the case to child protection or to the Community Response program. They make this decision by considering a history of past reports, the level of cooperation from families, and the seriousness of the safety concern.

