

This is a printer friendly version of an article from [lancastereagle.com](http://www.lancastereagle.com)
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Dec 7, 2007

Family services will put levy on ballot

By TAMARIA L. KULEMEKA
The Eagle-Gazette Staff
tkulemeka@nncogannett.com

FAIRFIELD COUNTY - A levy that will enable the county to investigate more abuse and neglect cases affecting children and the elderly will appear on the ballot in the March primary election.

The Fairfield County Commissioners approved ballot language for the 1-mill, 10-year operating levy Thursday.

Mike Orlando, executive director of Fairfield County Job & Family Services, said passage of the levy is critical to meeting the increased demands on the agency's Protective Services division.

"We're facing a community crisis," Orlando said. "We've stretched local resources as far as we can stretch them."

The new tax would raise \$2.4 million annually and cost the owner of a \$100,000 home an additional \$30.72 per year - or \$2.56 per month - starting in 2009.

The money would be used to investigate reports of neglect and exploitation of children and the elderly.

Local funding for protective services has not increased since 1999, despite the fact the number of referrals has more than doubled, according to data provided by JFS.

Orlando said the agency investigates about 35 percent of the most serious child and older adult cases reported.

"Our case workers can only investigate so many cases," he said. "They're at double what the national standard is."
