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Ohio's Child Support Program:

It's a Great Investment!

- **1** in **3** children in Ohio are involved in the child support program
- On average, we collect and disburse **\$2 Billion** annually
- **40%** of the children born in Ohio are born to unmarried parents. A majority are receiving some form(s) of public aid
- For **every dollar** spent, we collect **\$6.57** in **child support**, which is **37% higher** than the national average



Ohio's Child Support Program: It's a Great Investment!

- **13%** of our one million cases are currently receiving TANF/OWF
 - 44% have received benefits in the past
 - 43% have never received cash benefits
- Child support makes up **39% of the income** in single parent households



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- Maximizing the administrative process for the establishment of paternity and support and enforcement of support, we save court docket time for contested cases and court enforcement.
- Due to the loss of employment, agencies have doubled the number of Review & Adjustments of Orders. The ability to respond to these requests timely is critical.
- We are currently able to utilize a variety of enforcement tools for collection efforts, both administrative and judicial.

Ohio's Child Support Program

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- Ohio retained **\$31** million in FFY10
 - \$27.7 million in support collections and \$3.3 million in cash medical collections
- If we establish a child support order for a family receiving TANF, they will leave TANF **three times faster** than if we do not establish an order



Ohio's Child Support Program:

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- We pass through nearly **\$30 million** in federal funds to local governments for their costs in providing child support services in the courts, sheriffs, prosecutor offices, etc.
- We partner with Fatherhood Organizations, Work Force and other groups, helping to shift cases from enforcement to assistance for obligors, with an end goal of successful and accountable parenting.
- We reduced the number of obligors in State Prisons through successful diversion programs.

Proposed Budget

- 600502 is the line item dedicated to county child support operations. This has been reduced to **\$16.8 million**
- In February 2006, Congress passed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. This act removed our ability to use earned performance incentives as local match. We currently earn **\$2 federal dollars for every local dollar** expended.
- Ohio is a great performer and is the **third** largest earner of incentives – earning between \$28 and \$30 million annually
- As explained by ODJFS leadership, this creates a funding gap of over **\$100 million** over the biennium

How does the loss work?

**Please refer to Child Support Attachment **

Prior to DRA

- \$28 million in incentives permits spending of \$84 million
- \$28 million local + \$56 million in Federal = \$84 million is spending power

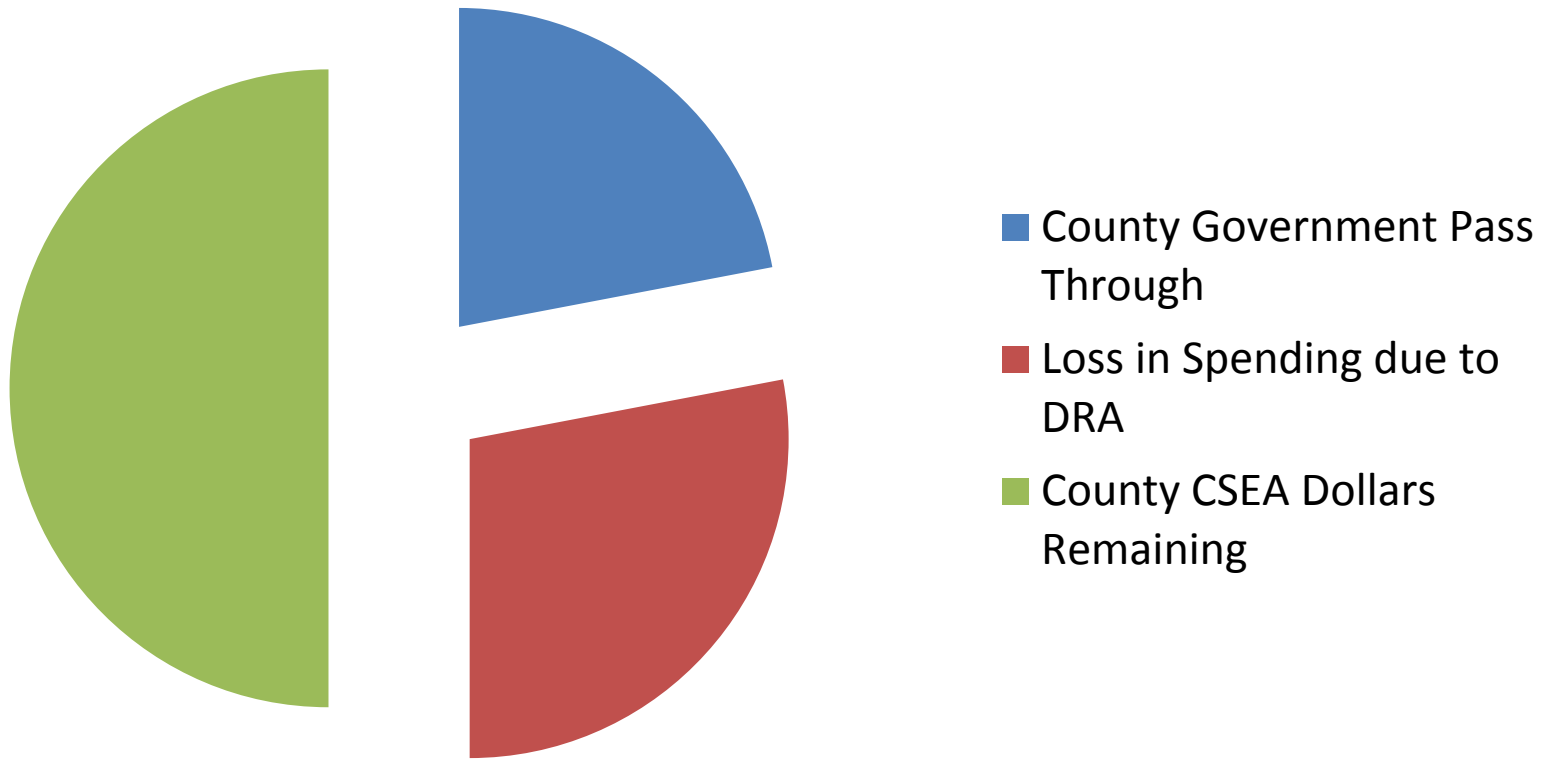
Without match

- \$84 million potential spending
- -\$28 million in incentive earnings
- \$56 million gap in spending (\$18.7 million in local funds + \$37.4 million in federal loss)



Budget Realities

County Expenditures



Basic Services Provided

- Establish Parentage
- Locate Parents & income sources
- Establish child support and health care orders
- Modify child support and health care orders
- Enforce child support and health care orders
- Terminate child support orders
- Collaborate to provide supportive services



Innovations in the Child Support World

- Focus changing to offer carrots – then use sticks
- County Consistencies in Service Delivery/Cross County Collaborations – Service Delivery Model Change
- Web Portal and other IT Assistance from ODJFS

