Ohio’s Child Support Program

Ohio CSEA Directors’ Association
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Overview

County administered through one of the following designations:

| County Department of Job and Family Services | Prosecutor | Stand-alone under the Commissioners | Court |

Federal program under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act

State supervised by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)
Who participates in our program?

Nationally: 1 in 5 children
- 38 million people
  - 15.1 million children
  - 11 million mothers
  - 10 million fathers
  - Collected $32.4 billion in current support in FFY17

Ohio: 1 in 3 children
- 905,906 Cases (IV-D and non-IV-D) as of December 2018
- Over 1.1 million children
- Collected $1.7 billion in current support in FFY17
What services are provided by your Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA)?

- Establishment of parentage
  - Voluntary Acknowledgment and Genetic Testing are most popular ways
- Location of non-custodial parents
  - Resources include: Federal parent locator, New Hire reports, Postal Service, BMV, Social Security Administration, Prison, etc.
- Establishment of child support and medical support orders
  - Administratively and judicially
- Review and adjustment of orders (modification)
- Enforcement of orders through administrative, civil and/or criminal actions
- Monitoring and distributing of collections
- Working with other states and countries in intergovernmental cases

Application for services is not dependent on the income level of the parties.
Who works with the CSEA?

- CSEAs may employ or contract for attorneys and hearing officers
- CSEAs can also contract with the following county offices for IV-D Services:
  - Magistrates
  - Clerk’s Office
  - Sheriff’s Office
  - Prosecutor
  - Others
    - ORC 3125.14; OAC 5101:12-1-80 et. Seq
- CSEA also works with sister agencies, community partners, the private bar, Legal Aid, Fatherhood groups, and others
How is the Child Support Program Funded?  OAC 5101:12-1-50

- Federal Share = 66% FFP (Federal Financial Participation) 45 CFR 304

- Non-Federal Share = 34%
  - State Match (line 600502; OAC 5101:9-6-80)
  - Non IV-D Administrative Fees
  - Assigned Cash Medical Collections (15% retained by CSEA)
  - County General Fund Contribution (if applicable)
  - TANF, 533 money through local MOUs

- Other:
  - Incentives
  - IV-D Administrative Fees: 2% statutory fee to administer cases
## Evolution of the Child Support Program

**Program Focus over the years:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior Focus</th>
<th>Present Focus</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Recovering welfare costs</td>
<td>- Reliable payments</td>
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<td>- Assigning and retaining support</td>
<td>- Sending money to families</td>
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<td>- Imputing income</td>
<td>- Using accurate, actual income</td>
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<td>- Automated, standardized enforcement</td>
<td>- Caseload segmentation/tailoring</td>
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<td>- Debt as motivation to pay</td>
<td>- Debt prevention/compromise</td>
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<td>- Incarceration as consequence</td>
<td>- Focus on removal of barriers</td>
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<td>- Financial support focused</td>
<td>- Involvement-balanced focus</td>
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Evolution of the Child Support Program

Goal of Current Focus ➞ to increase regular support for children by:
- Engaging both parents
- Setting and modifying orders based on ability to pay
- Paying all support money to children
- Implementing debt management
- Using less adversarial dispute resolution
- Jobs not jail--using contempt and jail sparingly
- Coordinating with other services
- Addressing domestic violence
Two recently passed bills will modernize our program

- **SB70** streamlines our administrative processes and increases consistencies and efficiencies county to county
  - Effective 2/11/2019

- **HB366** addresses the numbers, manner, and methodology by which child support orders are set in Ohio
  - The overarching goals are child support orders based on the ability to pay, and consistent, reliable payments of support to families
  - Effective 3/28/2019
Priorities for this Biennium

- Increase to our State Match Allocation
  - Restoration of previous 1.5% cut, and
  - Cost of living adjustment back to FY12 to account for increases in cost of doing business at county level
    - 1.02% COLA would increase allocation overall by $2.6m to $26.4m
  - Modest investment would strengthen program
    - Increased caretaker cases due to drug crisis
    - Increased cost for technology and business processes
    - Increased cost for salaries and health insurance
Priorities for this Biennium

- Improve connection between parents and employment or education opportunities
- Implement Federal Regulations to improve flexibility and further modernize the program
  - Regs must be adopted
- Pursue better data-sharing across the Health and Human Services programs
  - Legislative action likely needed
Priorities for this Biennium

- Updates to technology to better serve families
  - Spearheaded by Office of Child Support/ODJFS
    - SETS (Support Enforcement Tracking System) re-platforming
    - Mobile app
    - Web portal
Questions?

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www.ocda.us for Fact Sheets on Child Support processes and other pertinent information