

# Did You Know?

# Insight into Ohio's Child Support Program

*Child support* is the second largest source of *income* for single parent families, making up 39% of their total income.



The Ohio *child support* program impacts more children than any other public program in Ohio, *except* public education. One in three children are affected by our program.

For every dollar *expended*, we collected \$6.57 in support payments. This *exceeds* the national average by over 37%.



2 BILLION  
**DOLLARS**  
COLLECTED PER  
YEAR



Affects  
a CHILD'S  
activities



ONE MILLION  
**CHILDREN**  
AFFECTED



Affects  
a CHILD'S  
abilities



For every \$4 spent on child support, this reduces spending in other programs by **\$5**.



On average **4,000** drivers licenses are suspended and **2,000** reinstated monthly.



Affects  
A CHILD'S  
esteem



The FFY10 dollars retained in State General Revenue Funds was **\$27.8 million** in collections and **\$3.3 million** in medical collections.



13% of Ohio's *child support* caseload includes parents currently participating in traditional public assistance, or Ohio Works First (OWF). Nearly 44% *have received* OWF in the past. 43% of the cases have *never received* OWF.



Ohio's caseload is over 1,019,142 and serves over *one million* children, which makes us the *third* largest caseload in the nation.



Affects  
a CHILD'S  
relationships

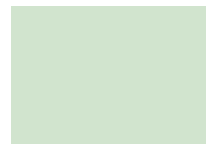


Affects  
a CHILD'S  
milestones

Ohio established paternity for **66,315** children born to unmarried parents. Ohio has a 40% out of wedlock birth rate.



Due to the loss in employment, administrative adjustment requests have more than *doubled*.



Affects  
a CHILD'S  
quality of  
life



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# Programs

## SERVICES PROVIDED TO FAMILIES

Over one million children are served by Ohio's Child Support Program. The core services provided by our program include paternity and support order establishment, review and adjustment of support orders, location and administrative and court enforcement of orders. Currently the out of wedlock birth rate in Ohio is 40%.



Ohio's program provided over \$31 million in retained child support collections and cash medical collections to Ohio's General Fund in FFY10. The cash medical payments have doubled in the second year of implementation. Additionally, the child support program orders health insurance where it is available, which represents additional cost savings for Ohio's Medicaid program for kids. The Urban Institute has identified that for every \$4 spent on the Nation's Child Support Program, \$5 is saved in other public programs.

Ohio CSEAs and partner agencies have identified that more intensive services and collaborations are necessary for economically disadvantaged families to be successful. Many agencies have implemented employment and training partnerships, parenting skills, diversions to incarceration, in-hospital genetic testing, custody clinics and other services aimed at assisting parents to meet their obligations to their families.

During the economic downturn in Ohio, local CSEAs have received double or triple the requests to review child support orders due to the loss of employment of one or both of the parents. The ability to respond timely to these requests is a key to having orders that are appropriate for the current family situation. Collections from unemployment more than tripled from FFY08 to FFY10.

## UTILIZATION OF MODERN AUTOMATION/TECHNOLOGY

Integration of innovations in technology are key to improving program efficiencies. The innovations listed below and others will improve access to information for our families and also improve the effectiveness of our staff.

Current projects underway:

-Document Generation Software will lessen costs to forms modification in SETS (Support Enforcement Tracking System) and also reduce repetitive key strokes for CSEA staff. It will also permit delivery options besides regular U.S. mail.

-Secure Web Portal

This will permit parents to gather information about their case and to update us with new addresses, new employers, etc. It will also permit us to remind them of appointments, hearings, payments received, payments missed and other important alerts.

SETS enhancements

-Location of parents is a critical component of child support. The Location Subsystem is currently being redesigned to improve this process and the outcomes. Additional enhancements currently in development include streamlining the intake process and providing SETS users with a new look to the system that reduces key strokes to access information.

-Implementation of a paperless management system in agencies that utilizes a more efficient routing of information for case management activities. This should also flow to interactions with courts and other elected provider offices.



# Education & Training

In 2010, OCDA developed and implemented an Administrative Hearing Officer accreditation program. At this time 190 Administrative Hearing Officers have registered and are working on initial accreditation.

Visit [www.ocda.us](http://www.ocda.us) for fact sheets on child support information and processes, as well as an Employer page to assist with special calculations and County by County profiles.

## Collaboration Efforts

**Department of Rehabilitation & Corrections** - The initial report was issued in February, 2009, and work continues to identify effective ways to continue to collaborate. Thirteen counties currently have a grant from DRC to divert child support offenders from Ohio Prisons. During the first two quarters of the current grant, the number of obligors in prison has dropped significantly, and over half of the participants are currently employed.

**Work Force Development** – The lessening of available TANF dollars for Prevention, Retention and Contingency has impacted many employment programs for low income obligors. Some counties have received federal grants that includes a collaboration of workforce, the courts and the CSEA. These are having positive outcomes for many of the families participating in the programs. It appears the three way collaboration works. The Department of Labor will be issuing grant dollars aimed at transitional employment opportunities for low income obligors.



**Efforts to work with other County Partners** – OCDA has held partnership conferences aimed at working on issues that link us with the Courts, Prosecutors, Sheriffs, Clerks of Court, Recorders, Commissioners, Children Services, Family Stability and other local programs.

**Fatherhood Efforts** – Many local CSEAs are collaborating with local organizations to assist fathers in meeting all of the expectations and challenges of fatherhood.

**Ohio Department of Job & Family Services** – We are working with ODJFS in many areas to improve services to Ohio Families, to be innovative and also to be mindful of compliance requirements, but not driven by them.



## Legislative & Policy Platform

**Child Support Guidelines Legislation** - SB292 should be re-introduced and debated fully in the General Assembly. Overall, we believe the components of the legislation are current, fair and realistic. It has been over 20 years since the process, tables, parenting time, and concepts of fairness for low income obligors have been modified. The recommendations for Ohio Families deserve debate and action.

**Administrative Processes Clarifications** - We have worked to identify many improvements to Ohio's existing administrative processes. Legislation needs re-introduced that would incorporate these changes that benefit Ohio families.

**Non—Legal Custody Cases** - The number of cases involving children residing with adults without legal custody continues to increase. In 2002, the Shareholder Reform Group identified the need for child support to follow the child. Legislation to make this happen needs introduced and adopted.