

**Economic Services Administration  
060 - M2 - FC - BICS GRANT FEDERAL AUTHORITY**

**Agency Submittal: 11-2017-19-YR Agency Req**

**Budget Period: 2017-19**

**SUMMARY**

The Behavioral Interventions for Child Support Services (BICS) grants explore the potential relevance and application of behavioral economics principles to child support services. The Economic Services Administration (ESA) requests 4.1 FTEs and \$1,117,000 in the 2017-19 Biennium to continue implementing two Behavioral Interventions for Child Support Services grants from the United State Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE).

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

ESA’s Division of Child Support (DCS) was one of eight state programs to receive the BICS Demonstration grant, and the only state program to receive the BICS Evaluation grant from the OCSE. Both are five-year grants that started on October 1, 2014. The demonstration will test behaviorally informed interventions to improve child support outcomes using rapid-cycle evaluation methodologies. The Seattle and Everett DCS offices are the pilot sites for the project. Pilot projects will involve early engagement for Washington’s establishment and enforcement processes. Through the evaluation grant, DCS will provide technical assistance and evaluation services to all eight state programs that received the BICS Demonstration Grant awards.

**PROPOSED SOLUTION**

ESA requests 4.1 FTEs and \$1,117,000 in the 2017-19 Biennium to continue implementing both grants.

BICS GRANT FUNDING	2017-19 BIENNIUM	2019-21 BIENNIUM
FTEs	4.1	1.0
GF - Federal	\$1,117,000	\$140,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,117,000</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>

**EXPECTED RESULTS**

The goal for both BICS grants is to increase consistent child support payments by earlier engagement with noncustodial parents, creating right-sized orders and modifying orders when warranted. Noncustodial parents who have child support obligation amounts that correctly reflect their financial situation are more likely to consistently pay their obligation which would reduce the amount the state expends on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and food stamps and improve the economic well-being of their children. With resources offered by these grants, DCS would be able to further streamline business processes and reduce bottlenecks for the clients it serves.

There will be a focused effort on the simplification of forms and earlier outreach to noncustodial parents during the administrative establishment process. There will also be a focus on connecting with noncustodial parents who have



**DSHS VISION**  
People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

**DSHS MISSION**  
To transform lives

**DSHS VALUES**  
Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

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missed their first payment, noncustodial parents nearing license suspension, and non-custodial parents (NCPs) in the early stages of contempt. The intent is to partner with both the DCS Alternative Solutions Program and the Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney's Office on this project. These grants also provide an important opportunity to identify strategies that will increase noncustodial parents' ability to support their children.

**STAKEHOLDER IMPACT**

There is no known opposition. DCS has a long history of partnering in the community to provide services to noncustodial parents. These grants are in direct alignment with DCS' commitment to being a part of these partnerships and collaborations to leverage resources, share information and create seamless and stress-free client transactions between programs. With a mission of "Transforming Lives", DCS is positioned to provide the services proposed by the BICS grants.

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Program Contact: Joe LaChance, (360) 725-4514

**OTHER CONNECTIONS**

**Performance Outcomes/Important Connections**

**1. Does this DP provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities?**

Goal 4: Healthy & Safe Communities - Healthy People - Provide access to good medical care to improve people's lives.

**2. The decision package meets the following DSHS' strategic objectives:**

2.1: The percentage of child support collected by ESA will increase.

3.1: The percentage of people who leave Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) due to self-sufficiency or at their request will increase.

**3. Identify other important connections or impacts below.** (Indicate 'Yes' or 'No'. If 'Yes' identify the connections or impacts related to the proposal.)

a) Regional/County impacts? Yes. See response to #4.

b) Other local government impacts? Yes. See response to #4.

c) Tribal government impacts? Yes. See response to #4.

d) Other state agency impacts? Yes. See response to #4.

e) Responds to specific task force, report, mandate or executive order? No

f) Does request contain a compensation change or require changes to a Collective Bargaining Agreement? No

g) Facility/workplace needs or impacts? No

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- h) Capital budget impacts? No
- i) Is change required to existing statutes, rules or contracts? No
- j) Is the request related to litigation? No
- k) Is the request related to Puget Sound recovery? No
- l) Other important connections? Yes. See response to #4.

**4. Please provide a detailed discussion of connections/impacts identified above.**

The Division of Child Support (DCS) has a long history of working with the county prosecuting attorneys to establish paternity, child support orders and to modify child support orders so they reflect the current financial circumstances of parents. DCS also works closely with employers in regard to the New Hire Reporting Program which impacts DCS's ability to collect child support in a timely manner. DCS partners with Indian tribes, on a government-to-government basis, to provide culturally relevant child support services and has designated Tribal Liaisons who manage the cases and serve as a local resource for staff and tribes. Additionally, DCS works with other state agencies such as Community Service Offices, Department of Licensing, and Department of Health as the department goes through the processes of establishing paternity and child support orders and the enforcement and modification of child support orders.

The BICS project pilots will involve early engagement for our establishment, enforcement and modification processes and will be evaluating the impact small changes will have on these processes to help increase the likelihood of non-custodial parents making consistent child support payments. This in turn will reduce the amount of public assistance Washington's children and families need. Consistent child support payments would also reduce the need to take more stringent enforcement actions for non-payment, such as driver license suspension and contempt.

**Alternatives/Consequences/Other**

**5. What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?**

DCS has a long history of evaluating how it does business to try to find ways to streamline processes and to engage clients in the establishment and enforcement processes. The BICS grants provide the opportunity to evaluate each step of our current processes in these areas and determine what is working and what is not. Through rapid-cycle methodology small changes can be implemented and processes quickly re-evaluated to see what the effect is.

DCS is committed to creating streamlined processes and stress-free client interactions. With a mission of "Transforming Lives", DCS is positioned to make the necessary changes as brought out by the BICS grants.

**6. How has or can the agency address the issue or need within its current appropriation level?**

Not funding this package would reduce DCS' ability to determine the best way to help noncustodial parents understand their responsibility surrounding their child support order.

DCS' current budget plan will not be sufficient to allow for the specified rapid-cycle evaluations that will be done with funding from the BICS grants. This would either require a reduction of spending in other areas or a reduction in the number of noncustodial parents the department can assist, which would reduce the effectiveness of the grant.

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7. Does this decision package include funding for any IT-related costs (hardware, software, services, cloud-based services, contracts or IT staff)?

No

Yes (Include an IT Addendum)

**Fiscal Detail****060 - M2 - FC - BICS Grant Federal Authority**

<b>Operating Expenditures</b>	<b><u>FY 2018</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2019</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2020</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2021</u></b>
001-A General Fund-DSHS Fam	559,000	558,000	140,000	0
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>559,000</b>	<b>558,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Staffing</b>	<b><u>FY 2018</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2019</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2020</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2021</u></b>
FTEs	4.1	4.1	1.3	0.0

**Performance Measure Detail**

<b>Activity:</b>	<b>Incremental Changes</b>			
	<b><u>FY 2018</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2019</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2020</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2021</u></b>
<b>Program: 060</b>				
F010 Child Support Enforcement	0	0	0	0
No measures submitted for package				

**Object Detail**

	<b><u>FY 2018</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2019</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2020</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2021</u></b>
A Salaries and Wages	292,000	292,000	90,000	0
B Employee Benefits	99,000	79,000	33,000	0
C Professional Service Contracts	122,000	141,000	4,000	0
E Goods and Other Services	25,000	25,000	8,000	0
G Travel	8,000	8,000	1,000	0
P Debt Service	1,000	1,000	0	0
TZ Intra-agency Reimbursements	12,000	12,000	4,000	0
<b>Total Objects</b>	<b>559,000</b>	<b>558,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>0</b>

**DSHS Source Detail****Overall Funding**

<b>Operating Expenditures</b>	<b><u>FY 2018</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2019</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2020</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2021</u></b>
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**Fund 001-A, General Fund-DSHS Fam****Sources Title**

563B Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement (A) (100%)	559,000	558,000	140,000	0
<b>Total for Fund 001-A</b>	<b>559,000</b>	<b>558,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Overall Funding</b>	<b>559,000</b>	<b>558,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>0</b>