

Child Support Program

SFY

2016

Provides services for the establishment of paternity, and the establishment, modification and enforcement of child support orders (financial and medical) to help families become or remain self-sufficient.

ESA Briefing
Book

Table of Contents

Child Support Program Overview	3
Child Support Program Highlights, SFY 2016	4
Child Support Incentive Scorecard, FFY 2015 and FFY 2016.....	5
Child Support Caseload, SFY 2007 to SFY 2016 Unduplicated	6
Child Support Collections, SFY 2007 – SFY 2016	7
Child Support Clients by County of Residence, June 2016 Snapshot.....	8
Child Support Cost Avoidance, SFY 2016	11
Child Support Cost Avoidance, SFY 2008 – SFY 2016.....	12
Child Support Client Demographics, June 2016 Snapshot.....	13
Special Grant/Projects	14
Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgments and Genetic Testing	16

Child Support Program Overview

The Child Support program (established under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act) provides services for the establishment of paternity, and the establishment, modification and enforcement of child support orders to help families become or remain self-sufficient.

Three types of cases make up the Title IV-D child support program:

- **Current Assistance** (individuals receiving TANF or Title IV-E Foster Care)
- **Former Assistance** (individuals who previously received Temporary Assistance to Needy Families or Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TANF/AFDC) or Title IV-E Foster Care)
- **Never Assistance** (individuals who have never received TANF/AFDC or Title IV-E Foster Care. Medicaid, child care only and State Only Foster Care are also Never Assistance cases)

The Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998 awards incentives to states' child support programs based on their performance on five measures:

1. Paternity establishment
2. Order establishment
3. Current support collected
4. Cases paying toward arrears
5. Cost effectiveness

The Child Support Incentive Scorecard included in this chapter shows DCS outcomes on the five measures over the past two federal fiscal years. Information is presented in federal fiscal years because that is the time frame used for awarding incentives earned by the state's child support program.

Cost avoidance, one of the indirect benefits of the child support enforcement program, is measured by reductions in public expenditures in cash assistance, food assistance and Medicaid for custodial families. Washington state studies have shown that a dependable stream of child support income for custodial parents and medical insurance coverage for children helps custodial families increase levels of financial stability and independence, and consequently, leads to less reliance on public safety net programs and greater family self-sufficiency.

TECHNICAL NOTES

DATA SOURCES: Data for this chapter was based on ESA Division of Child Support's Support Enforcement Management System (SEMS) - September 2016 load. Data for incentive payments are provided by the DCS Fiscal Office.

DATA NOTES: Percentages may not add up to expected totals due to rounding.

Child Support Program Highlights, SFY 2016

The average monthly child support caseload was 340,919 in SFY 2016, a 2.0% decrease from 347,740 in SFY 2015. Within this caseload, average monthly Current Assistance cases decreased 6.9% from 36,207 in SFY 2015 to 33,723 in SFY 2016; Former Assistance cases decreased by 2.1% from 192,318 to 188,329; and Never Assistance cases decreased 0.3% from 119,215 to 118,867.

- The program collected a total of \$683.8 million in SFY 2016.
- The total child support cost avoidance was \$136.5 million. Of the total, \$79.5 million (58.2%) was for the Medicaid program; \$41.5 million (30.4%) was for the Basic Food program and \$15.6 million (11.4%) was for the TANF program.
- The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) reported 28,414 births to unmarried mothers. Of these births, DOH reports that 21,183 (74.6%) of the unmarried couples jointly signed and filed Washington State Paternity Acknowledgment forms. The vast majority of these acknowledgments were signed at the hospital as a result of Washington State's Paternity Acknowledgment Program.

Child Support Incentive¹ Scorecard, FFY 2015² and FFY 2016³

Measure	Goal Needed to Obtain 100% Funding	Actual Performance		Estimated Percentage of Maximum Incentive Reached	
		2015	2016	2015	2016
Paternity Establishment Percentage	80%	98.7%	101.6%	100%	100%
Support Order Establishment	80%	93.2%	93.4%	100%	100%
Current Collections	80%	65.5%	66.3%	75%	76%
Arrearage Collections	80%	61.6%	61.9%	71%	71%
Cost Effectiveness	5.00	4.54	4.27	90%	80%

Incentive Measure Formulas Used by the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement

Paternity establishment percentage: Number of children in the caseload in the FFY or as of the end of the FFY who were born out-of-wedlock (BOW) with paternity established or acknowledged divided by number of children BOW in the caseload as of the end of the preceding FFY.

Support order establishment: Number of IV-D cases with support orders divided by number of IV-D cases.

Current collections: Amount collected for current support in IV-D cases divided by amount owed for current support in IV-D cases.

Arrearage collections: Number of IV-D cases paying toward arrears divided by number of IV-D cases with arrears due.

Cost-effectiveness: Total IV-D dollars collected divided by total IV-D dollars expended.

¹ DCS incentive payments for FFY15 are based on DCS actual FFY15 performance and OCSE FFY15 preliminary performance results for all other states. DCS incentive payments for FFY16 are based on DCS actual FFY16 performance and OCSE FFY15 preliminary performance results for all other states. Data source: DCS Fiscal Office.

² FFY 2015 data is from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) 2015 Preliminary Report.

³ FFY 2016 data is preliminarily based on unaudited federal reports.

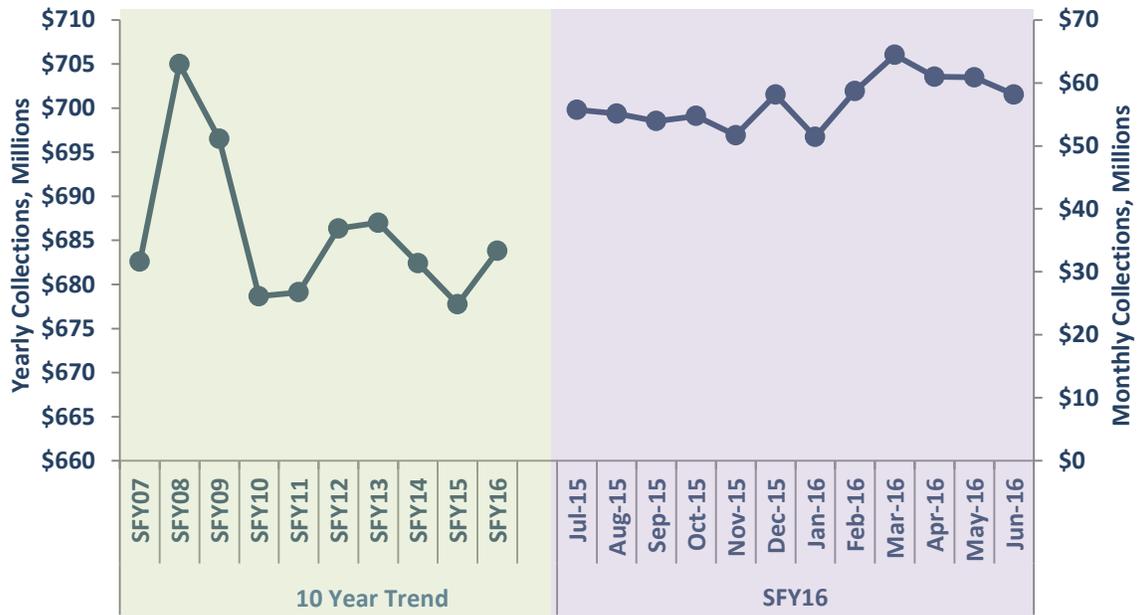
Child Support Caseload, SFY 2007 to SFY 2016 Unduplicated



SFY	Cases	SFY	Cases
SFY07	350,206	SFY12	370,830
SFY08	352,422	SFY13	372,701
SFY09	351,315	SFY14	364,295
SFY10	356,436	SFY15	347,740
SFY11	364,535	SFY16	340,919

SFY 2016	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Caseload
July	33,576	190,489	119,370	343,435
August	34,208	189,422	118,704	342,334
September	34,159	189,322	118,495	341,976
October	34,536	188,669	118,522	341,727
November	34,538	188,484	118,584	341,606
December	33,709	188,525	118,533	340,767
January	34,802	187,645	118,774	341,221
February	34,165	188,040	119,073	341,278
March	33,206	188,294	119,160	340,660
April	32,876	187,694	119,112	339,682
May	32,962	186,631	119,051	338,644
June	31,943	186,736	119,021	337,700
Mo. Avg.	33,723	188,329	118,867	340,919

Child Support Collections, SFY 2007 – SFY 2016



SFY	Collections	SFY	Collections
SFY07	\$682,569,955	SFY12	\$686,339,317
SFY08	\$704,983,914	SFY13	\$686,994,705
SFY09	\$696,497,265	SFY14	\$682,411,249
SFY10	\$678,663,012	SFY15	\$677,763,250
SFY11	\$679,114,124	SFY16	\$683,807,632

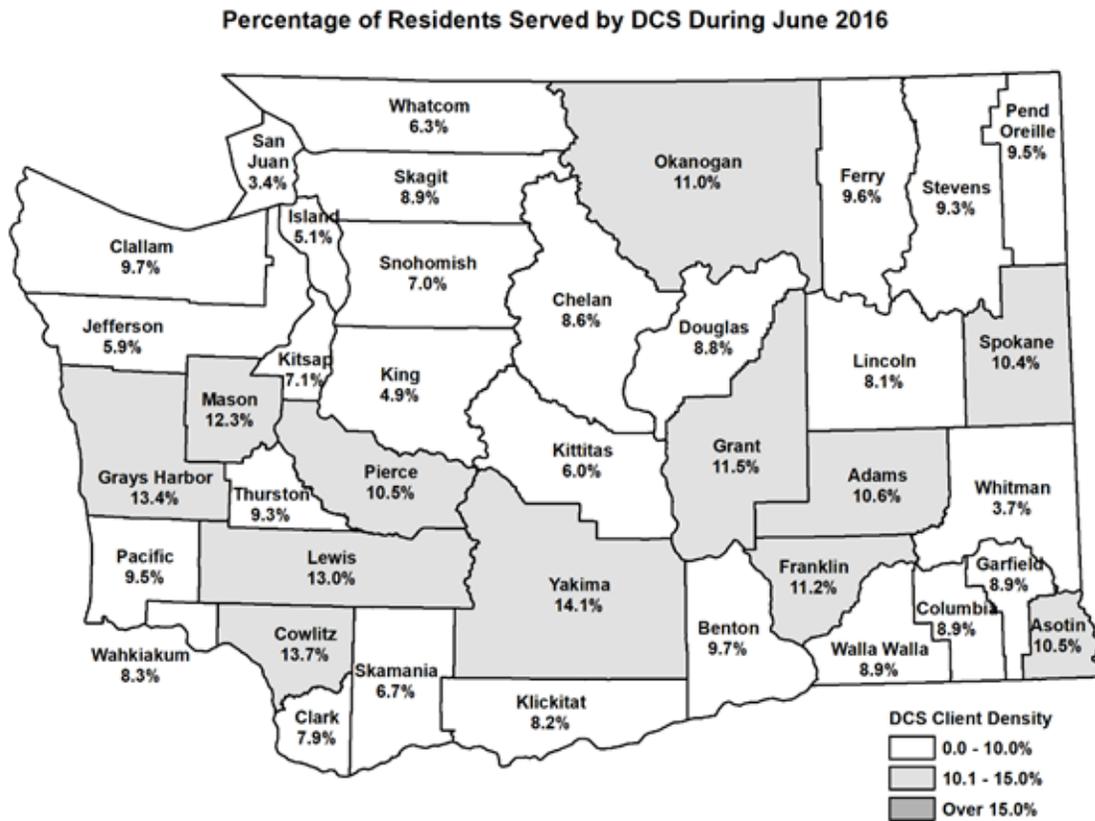
SFY 2016	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Collections
July	\$1,754,845	\$21,127,425	\$32,826,779	\$55,709,049
August	\$1,786,817	\$20,655,025	\$32,672,503	\$55,114,344
September	\$1,777,787	\$20,082,807	\$32,078,092	\$53,938,686
October	\$1,830,381	\$20,675,573	\$32,231,476	\$54,737,430
November	\$1,730,959	\$19,055,334	\$30,905,556	\$51,691,849
December	\$2,070,929	\$21,640,980	\$34,397,778	\$58,109,687
January	\$1,750,839	\$18,637,278	\$31,006,324	\$51,394,442
February	\$2,235,273	\$22,162,077	\$34,293,828	\$58,691,178
March	\$2,603,217	\$25,185,967	\$36,635,737	\$64,424,921
April	\$2,267,698	\$23,516,752	\$35,192,986	\$60,977,436
May	\$2,124,046	\$23,398,567	\$35,352,870	\$60,875,482
June	\$1,942,955	\$21,895,983	\$34,304,189	\$58,143,128
Total	\$23,875,746	\$258,033,768	\$401,898,118	\$683,807,632

Child Support Clients by County of Residence, June 2016 Snapshot

County	Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served	County	Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served
Adams	2,075	19,510	10.6%	Lewis	9,980	76,890	13.0%
Asotin	2,336	22,150	10.5%	Lincoln	865	10,640	8.1%
Benton	18,547	190,500	9.7%	Mason	7,696	62,320	12.3%
Chelan	6,515	75,910	8.6%	Okanogan	4,597	41,730	11.0%
Clallam	7,140	73,410	9.7%	Pacific	2,007	21,180	9.5%
Clark	36,611	461,010	7.9%	Pend Oreille	1,262	13,290	9.5%
Columbia	361	4,050	8.9%	Pierce	88,468	844,490	10.5%
Cowlitz	14,343	104,850	13.7%	San Juan	549	16,320	3.4%
Douglas	3,578	40,720	8.8%	Skagit	10,906	122,270	8.9%
Ferry	739	7,700	9.6%	Skamania	770	11,500	6.7%
Franklin	9,916	88,670	11.2%	Snohomish	54,004	772,860	7.0%
Garfield	195	2,200	8.9%	Spokane	51,082	492,530	10.4%
Grant	10,858	94,610	11.5%	Stevens	4,097	44,100	9.3%
Grays Harbor	9,764	72,820	13.4%	Thurston	25,435	272,690	9.3%
Island	4,237	82,910	5.1%	Wahkiakum	331	4,000	8.3%
Jefferson	1,831	31,090	5.9%	Walla Walla	5,423	60,730	8.9%
King	102,767	2,105,100	4.9%	Whatcom	13,288	212,540	6.3%
Kitsap	18,606	262,590	7.1%	Whitman	1,772	47,940	3.7%
Kittitas	2,607	43,710	6.0%	Yakima	35,477	250,900	14.1%
Klickitat	1,743	21,270	8.2%				
State Total⁴	572,778	7,183,700	8.0%				

⁴ Not including clients who lived out of the state or not reported.

Percentage of Total Population with a DCS Case by County, June 2016 Snapshot

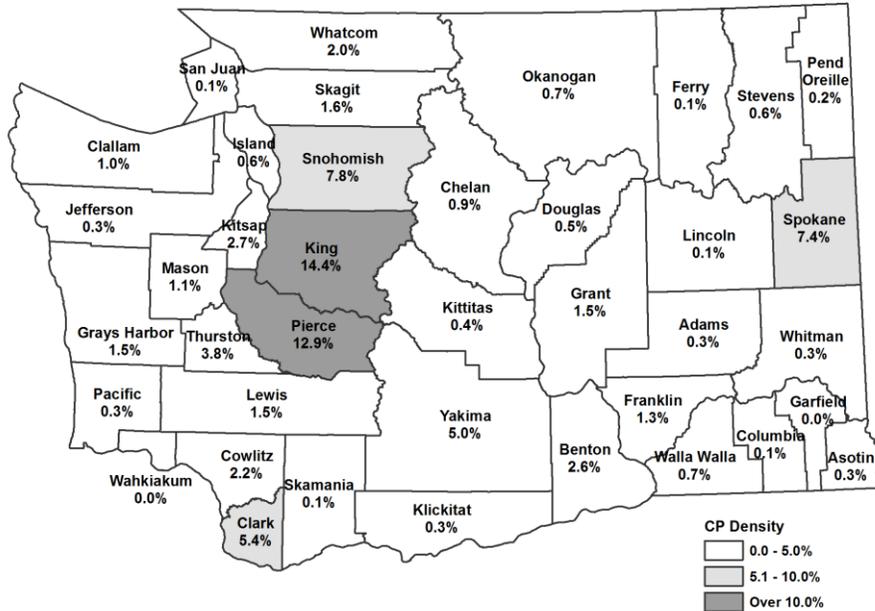


Note: The percentage of residents served is obtained by dividing the number of DCS clients in a county during June 2016 by the OFM 2016 County Population estimate.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Jan. 2022

Percentage of Custodial and Noncustodial Parents by County, June 2016 Snapshot

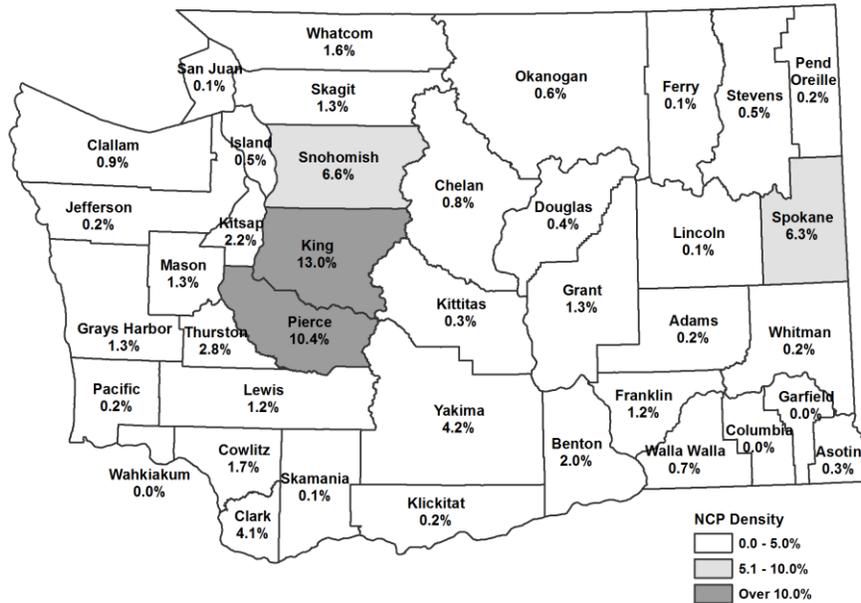
Percentage of Custodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2016



Note: 17.4% of CPs are out of state or do not have valid county address code.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2016

Percentage of Noncustodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2016



Note: 30.8% of NCPs are out of state or do not have valid county address code.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2016

Child Support Cost Avoidance, SFY 2016

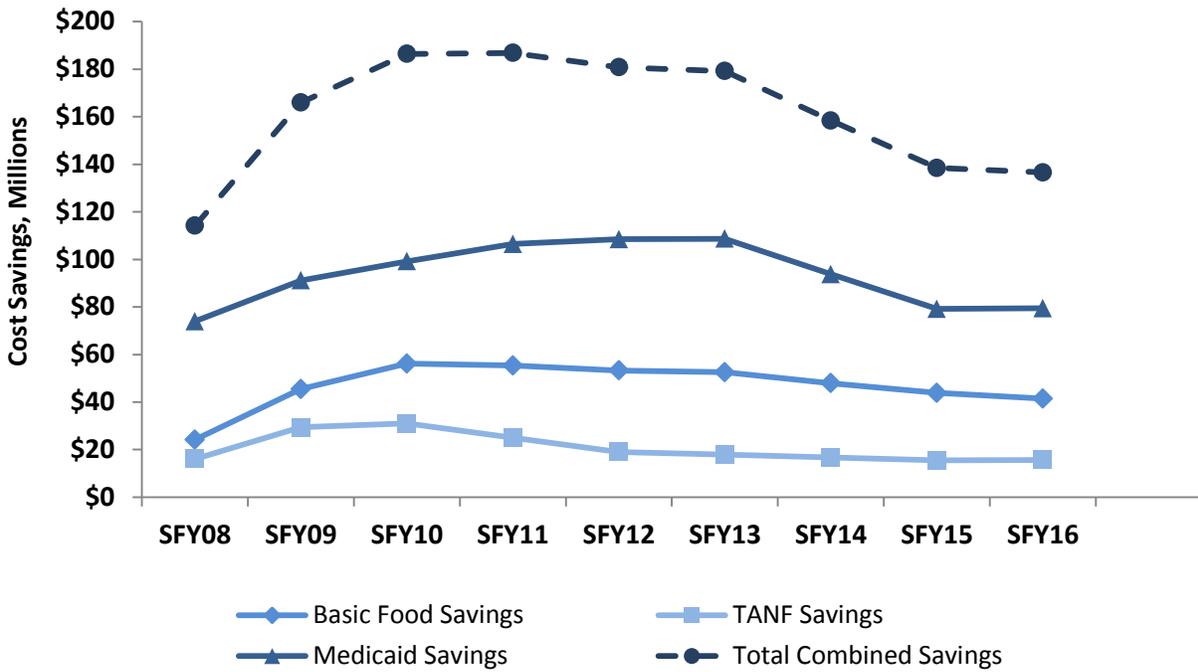
SFY 2016	Basic Food			TANF		
	Average CR ⁵ Basic Food Expenditure	Average CI ⁶ Basic Food Expenditure	Total Basic Food Savings	Average CR ⁵ TANF Expenditure	Average CI ⁶ TANF Expenditure	Total TANF Savings
July	\$91.5	\$149.1	\$3,434,189	\$7.2	\$29.0	\$1,297,205
August	\$91.9	\$149.5	\$3,386,000	\$7.7	\$29.9	\$1,293,190
September	\$90.9	\$148.8	\$3,368,958	\$7.7	\$30.6	\$1,336,202
October	\$90.6	\$149.3	\$3,466,247	\$7.4	\$30.7	\$1,399,088
November	\$89.8	\$150.0	\$3,491,031	\$7.2	\$30.3	\$1,353,385
December	\$88.0	\$148.0	\$3,504,997	\$7.1	\$30.4	\$1,385,436
January	\$87.4	\$147.5	\$3,490,644	\$7.2	\$30.2	\$1,354,984
February	\$87.2	\$146.9	\$3,526,634	\$7.4	\$29.6	\$1,309,233
March	\$87.1	\$144.6	\$3,465,761	\$7.5	\$28.4	\$1,264,609
April	\$86.2	\$143.1	\$3,387,714	\$7.1	\$27.5	\$1,241,859
May	\$85.0	\$142.2	\$3,601,183	\$7.1	\$27.4	\$1,228,979
June	\$85.0	\$140.2	\$3,339,416	\$7.2	\$26.9	\$1,148,750
Total			\$41,462,774			\$15,612,920

SFY 2016	Medicaid		
	Total CP Medicaid Savings	Total Child Medicaid Savings	Total Medicaid Savings
January	\$2,926,323	\$3,787,817	\$6,714,140
February	\$2,844,719	\$3,539,592	\$6,384,311
March	\$3,003,466	\$3,715,910	\$6,719,376
April	\$3,008,911	\$3,548,191	\$6,557,102
May	\$2,892,254	\$3,216,785	\$6,109,039
June	\$2,937,948	\$3,111,152	\$6,049,100
July	\$3,394,686	\$3,378,041	\$6,772,727
August	\$3,428,435	\$3,924,621	\$7,353,056
September	\$3,220,053	\$4,052,417	\$7,272,470
October	\$3,088,340	\$3,808,821	\$6,897,161
November	\$3,042,034	\$3,280,230	\$6,322,264
December	\$3,199,880	\$3,117,655	\$6,317,535
Total	\$36,987,049	\$42,481,232	\$79,468,281

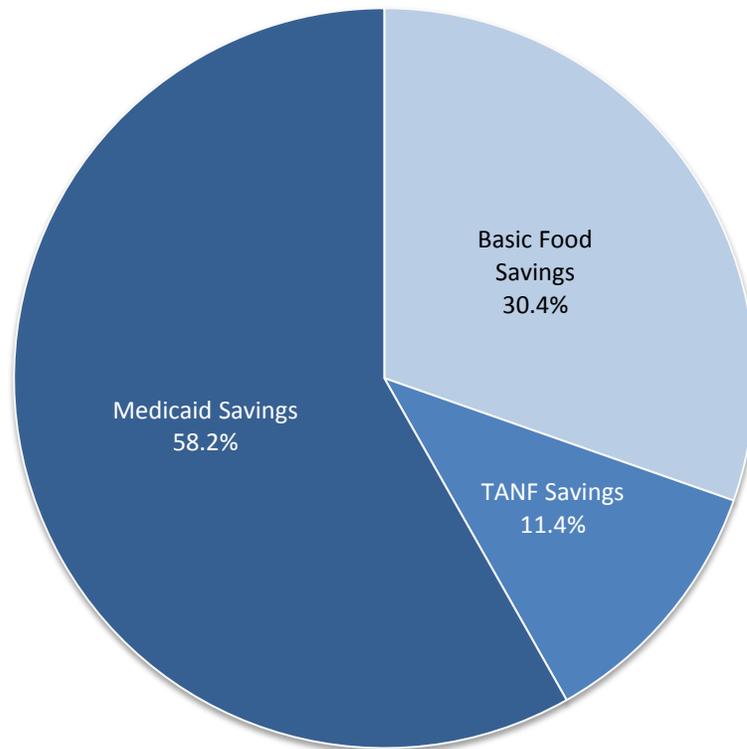
⁵ CR: Custodial parents with regular child support payments. Regular child support payments are defined as summed monthly order amount more than \$0 and summed total arrearage debt less than twice the summed monthly order amount.

⁶ CI: Custodial parents without regular child support payments.

Child Support Cost Avoidance, SFY 2008 – SFY 2016



Sources of \$136.5 Million in Child Support Cost Avoidance, SFY 2016



Child Support Client Demographics, June 2016 Snapshot

Characteristic	Non-Custodial Parents ⁷		Custodial Parents ⁸		Children	
	# of Clients	Percent	# of Clients	Percent	# of Clients	Percent
Total Clients	240,123	100.0%	262,804	100.0%	279,827	100.0%

Gender	Non-Custodial Parents		Custodial Parents		Children	
Female	37,039	15.4%	231,862	88.2%	137,563	49.1%
Male	202,575	84.4%	29,464	11.2%	142,097	50.8%
Not Reported/ Unidentified	509	0.2%	1,478	0.6%	167	0.1%

Age of Parent	Non-Custodial Parents		Custodial Parents		Children	
<26 Years Old	14,605	6.1%	19,022	7.3%		
26 – 35 Years Old	75,757	31.6%	82,594	31.4%		
36 – 45 Years Old	86,490	36.0%	88,124	33.5%		
46 – 55 Years Old	48,500	20.2%	48,643	18.5%		
55+ Years Old	13,055	5.4%	23,152	8.8%		
Not Reported/ Unidentifiable	1,716	0.7%	1,269	0.5%		
Mean Age		39.8		40.5		10.6
Median Age		39.0		38.9		10.8

Age of Children	Children	
<6 Year Old	56,494	20.2%
6 – 10 Years Old	85,466	30.5%
11 – 15 Years Old	89,451	32.0%
16 – 18 Years Old	41,967	15.0%
18+ Years Old	6,328	2.3%
Not Reported/ Unidentifiable	121	0.0%

⁷ Some non-custodial parents may also be custodial parents on another case.

⁸ Some custodial parents may also be an NCP on another case.

Special Grant/Projects

- Families Forward Demonstration (FFD) - DCS, along with child support agencies located in Colorado, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, are working with MDRC and local service providers on the Families Forward Demonstration (FFD) grant project. The opportunity was made available by MDRC through a generous grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. FFD will rigorously test new strategies to improve the earnings capacity, skills and financial literacy of low-income parents who owe child support but are unable to fully meet their obligations due to low earnings. The goal of this five-year project is to identify effective employment-focused approaches that can be integrated into child support programs across the country. The demonstration will seek to improve the earnings capacity of noncustodial parents, thereby increasing their ability to make reliable child support payments and improving the economic well-being of their children. The planning phase, which is expected to last for the first year, will run through January of 2017. Pilot projects, which will include partnerships with local Workforce Development Councils located in two areas of the state, are expected to be up and running by late spring or early summer.
- Responsible Fatherhood Opportunities for Reentry and Mobility (ReFORM) - In October of 2015 the Department of Corrections (DOC) was awarded a five-year grant by the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The ReFORM grant supports parents, as well as their children age birth to 24, who are reentering communities following incarceration. The primary areas of focus are: responsible parenting, economic stability and mobility, and healthy marriages or partner relationships. The project is serving eligible individuals returning to Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, and Thurston Counties from five DOC facilities. The project began with a nine-month planning phase, which included a broad stakeholder steering committee with multiple state agencies. As of July, the pilot work began at DOC. DCS, through the Alternative Solutions Program, is a project partner. Alternative Solutions is assisting NCPs with action plans which may include: working with community partners that can help with employment, housing, food, medical, and legal resources upon release; providing DCS direct services to help lower monthly payments or reduce state debts; referrals to the Employment Pipeline; and help with license reinstatement and other enforcement actions.
- The Alternative Solutions Program – this program is a statewide initiative implemented by DCS in July 2014 to assist non-custodial parents (NCPs) who struggle to meet their child support obligations by connecting them to community resources that can help them remove those barriers, such as helping them with work related training, education, and supportive services. Between July 2014 and October 2016 the voluntary program received 1,395 referrals, and of those who actively engaged, 170 NCPs were steered to employment. The program has been embraced by parents, field staff, prosecuting attorney staff, and community partners with real-life success stories regularly resulting from this cooperative effort.
- Behavioral Interventions for Child Support Services (BICS) – In September 2014, DCS was awarded two five-year Behavioral Interventions for Child Support Services (BICS) grants from the Office of Child Support Enforcement to test pilot projects that apply behavioral economics to child support services. Within the child support system, behavioral economics provides insight into how structural and behavioral process bottlenecks might influence a paying parent's

fulfillment of their monthly obligation. A total of eight states/districts were awarded the BICS demonstration grant to test behaviorally informed interventions that seek to improve child support outcomes. The BICS evaluation grant manages and provides technical assistance and evaluation services for the eight BICS demonstration grantees. DCS was selected as the sole agency to receive this larger, overarching evaluation grant. The DCS Seattle Field Office is the 'architect' of the first pilot intervention under the BICS demonstration grant. This pilot project focuses on testing behaviorally informed communication strategies in an effort to increase the early engagement of paying parents in the administrative order establishment process. This pilot began in May 2016 and is estimated to run for six months. Planning for the next BICS pilot in the Everett Field Office will begin in the near future. The BICS grants run through September 2019.

Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgments and Genetic Testing

Voluntary Paternity Program Background

The Washington State Paternity Acknowledgment Program began in July 1989 as a partnership between the Washington State Division of Child Support (DCS) and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). The program provides cooperative unmarried parents an opportunity to sign a Paternity Acknowledgment at the child's birth or a later date. Most Paternity Acknowledgments are signed at a birthing hospital. Based on its success of increasing paternity establishments using the voluntary acknowledgment and its cost effectiveness, Washington's program was soon recognized as a national best practice. In the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, the U.S. Congress required that every state implement a voluntary paternity establishment program based on Washington State's model.

Legal Requirements: The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA) created numerous state requirements, including the requirement that states afford all unmarried parents the opportunity to voluntarily acknowledge paternity. Section 45CFR 303.5 (g) provides the applicable federal regulations; RCW 70.58.080 and RCW 26.26 are the applicable state laws.

A hospital, midwife, or other authorized entity must provide an opportunity for unmarried parents to sign a Paternity Acknowledgment at the time of the child's birth. The parents are entitled to both a written statement of their rights and responsibilities (on the back of the Paternity Acknowledgment) and oral notice (a short video, 1-800 line). Upon receipt of a properly completed and notarized Paternity Acknowledgment, DOH must name the father on the birth certificate.

Effects of the Paternity Acknowledgment: A properly signed and filed Paternity Acknowledgment creates a legal determination of paternity immediately without the need for a court order. Paternity for a child of unmarried parents must be determined before a child support order can be established for financial and medical obligations. The determination of paternity afforded by this simple administrative process also provides other benefits, such as making a child eligible to participate in any available social security, veterans', life insurance, or health insurance benefits.

Results: The signed and filed Paternity Acknowledgment allows DCS to establish a child support obligation quickly and at low cost. DCS is usually able to obtain a child support order in 90 days or less from the date DOH files the Paternity Acknowledgment, which is a much quicker and less costly process than establishing paternity through a court order. DCS administrative costs total less than \$200 per case, compared to an average of \$1,350 each time DCS must establish paternity in court. As a result of the Paternity Acknowledgment Program, DCS saves the taxpayers more than \$13,000,000 yearly. In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016, 14,335 paternities were established, 74.3% of them by Paternity Acknowledgment.

Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgments and Genetic Testing (continued)

Voluntary Paternity Testing Program

DCS continues to operate the Voluntary Paternity Testing Program (VPTP), after the conclusion of the successful Bright Start demonstration grant which operated August 1, 2005 through July 31, 2009. There were two successful strategies from the demonstration grant that previously were not part of the Paternity Program, but are now. DCS pays for Notaries Public at the State's birthing hospitals, increasing the availability for parents to sign a Paternity Acknowledgment, since Washington State requires that parents' signatures be notarized on the document. DCS also offers unmarried parents no-cost genetic testing in a non-judicial setting. Through the VPTP, hospital staff can offer an application for genetic testing to unmarried parents. This gives parents the ability to confirm that they are the child's biological parent before voluntarily agreeing to paternity, which is good for both the parents and child if there is a question about paternity.