

Child Support Program

SFY

2020

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 economically secure.

ESA Briefing
Book

Table of Contents

Child Support Program Overview 3

Child Support Program Highlights, SFY 2020 4

Child Support Incentive Scorecard, FFY 2019 and FFY 2020..... 5

Child Support Caseload, SFY 2011 – SFY 2020 6

Child Support Collections, SFY 2011 – SFY 2020 7

Clients with DCS Cases by County of Residence, June 2020 Snapshot 8

Percentage of Total Population with a DCS Case by County, June 2020 Snapshot 9

Percentage of Custodial Parents (CP) by County, June 2020 Snapshot 10

Percentage of Noncustodial Parents (NCP) by County, June 2020 Snapshot 11

Child Support Cost Avoidance by Source, SFY 2020 12

Child Support Cost Avoidance by Source, SFY 2011 – SFY 2020 13

Child Support Demographics, June 2020 Snapshot 14

Special Grants/Projects..... 15

Voluntary Acknowledgments and Genetic Testing 17

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 economically secure.

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

- **Current Assistance** – Individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (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. Never Assistance cases include Medicaid only, child care only, and state only Foster Care cases.

The Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998 awards incentives to state 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 Division of Child Support (DCS) outcomes on the five measures over the past two federal fiscal years. Information is presented by federal fiscal year (FFY) because that is the timeframe 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 families. Washington State studies have shown that a dependable stream of child support income for custodial parents and medical insurance coverage for children helps families increase their level of financial stability and independence, and consequently, leads to less reliance on public assistance programs and greater economic security.

Additional information for this program, including the eligibility criteria, funding sources, and services/benefits provided, is available [here](#).

TECHNICAL NOTES

DATA SOURCES: Data for this chapter was based on ESA Division of Child Support's Support Enforcement Management System (SEMS) - September 2020 caseload. Data for incentive payments are provided by the DCS Fiscal Office.

DATA NOTE:

- Percentages may not add up to expected totals due to rounding.

Child Support Program Highlights, SFY 2020

The average monthly child support caseload was 309,616 in SFY 2020, representing a 2.8% decrease from 318,444 in SFY 2019. Within this caseload, average monthly Current Assistance cases decreased by 2% from 28,938 in SFY 2019 to 28,360 in SFY 2020; Former Assistance cases decreased by 3.9% from 172,450 to 165,759; and Never Assistance cases decreased by 1.3% from 117,056 to 115,497.

- The child support program collected a total of \$695.3 million in SFY 2020.
- The total cost avoidance in SFY 2020 was \$156.1 million. Of the total, \$101.7 million (65.2%) was for the Medicaid program; \$39.1 million (25.0%) was for the Basic Food program; and 15.3 million (9.8%) was for the TANF program.
- An Acknowledgment of Parentage (AOP) is a legal form that establishes a parent-child relationship or “parentage”. By filing this form, a second parent is added to a child’s birth certificate. The vast majority (99%) are signed by unmarried birth mothers/parents and a second parent. However, on rare occasion, some parents already on a birth certificate through marriage or registered domestic partnership may choose to file an AOP for use outside of Washington to prove parentage. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) reported 26,056 births to unmarried birth mothers/parents. Of these births, DOH reported that 20,864 (80.07%) of the mothers/birth parents and a second parent jointly signed and filed Washington State AOP forms. The vast majority of these acknowledgments were signed at the hospital as a result of the efforts of Washington State’s Parentage and Paternity Program.

Child Support Incentive¹ Scorecard, FFY 2019² and FFY 2020³

Measure	Goal Needed to Obtain 100% Funding	Actual Performance		Estimated Percentage of Maximum Incentive Reached	
		2019	2020	2019	2020
Paternity Establishment Percentage	80%	97.9%	97.0%	100%	100%
Support Order Establishment	80%	93.1%	92.7%	100%	100%
Current Collections	80%	67.7%	67.4%	77%	77%
Arrearage Collections	80%	62.4%	71.0%	72%	82%
Cost Effectiveness	5.00	4.08	4.23	80%	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.

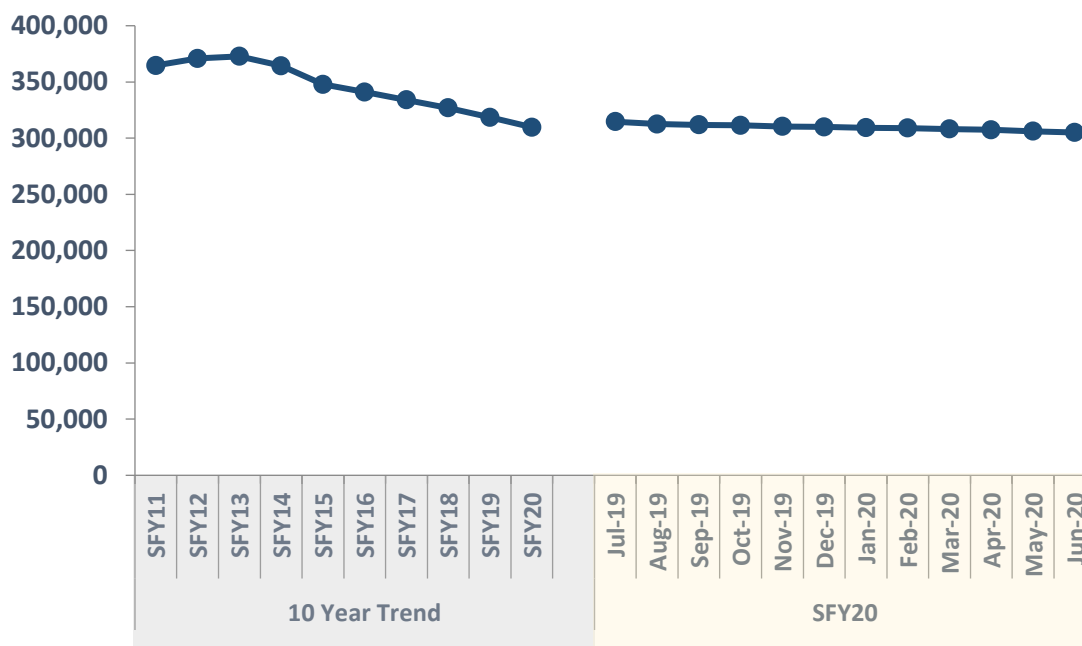
Cost-effectiveness: Total IV-D dollars collected divided by total IV-D dollars expended.

¹ DCS incentive payments for FFY 2019 are based on DCS actual FFY 2019 performance and OCSE FFY 2019 preliminary performance results for all other states. DCS incentive payments for FFY20 are based on DCS actual FFY 2020 performance and OCSE FFY 2020 preliminary performance results for all other states. Data source: DCS Fiscal Office.

² FFY 2019 data is from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) 2019 Preliminary Report.

³ FFY 2020 data is preliminary based on unaudited federal reports.

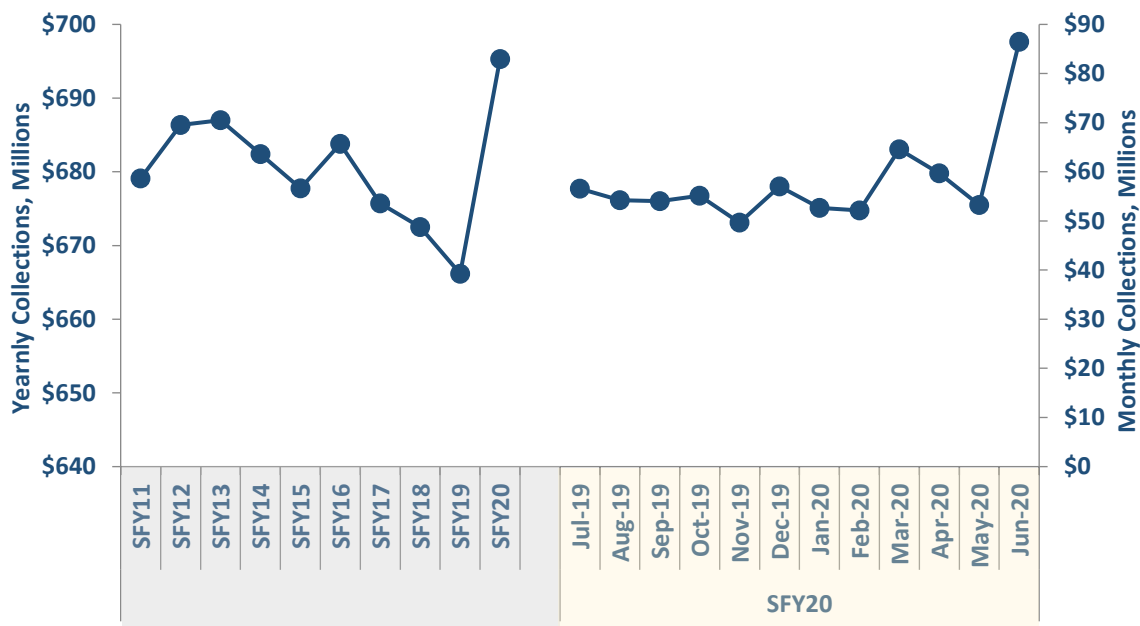
Child Support Caseload, SFY 2011 – SFY 2020



SFY	Monthly Average Caseload	SFY	Monthly Average Caseload
SFY11	364,535	SFY16	340,919
SFY12	370,830	SFY17	334,027
SFY13	372,701	SFY18	326,923
SFY14	364,295	SFY19	318,444
SFY15	347,740	SFY20	309,616

SFY 2020	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Caseload
July	27,741	169,644	117,270	314,655
August	27,519	168,910	116,132	312,561
September	28,015	168,111	115,720	311,846
October	27,580	168,085	115,742	311,407
November	27,773	167,125	115,427	310,325
December	27,433	166,823	115,650	309,906
January	27,598	165,984	115,651	309,233
February	27,334	165,787	115,855	308,976
March	27,310	165,248	115,509	308,067
April	30,096	162,498	114,761	307,355
May	30,927	160,780	114,321	306,028
June	30,994	160,118	113,921	305,033
Mo. Avg.	28,360	165,759	115,497	309,616

Child Support Collections, SFY 2011 – SFY 2020



SFY	Collections	SFY	Collections
SFY11	679,114,124	SFY16	683,807,632
SFY12	686,339,317	SFY17	675,702,583
SFY13	686,994,705	SFY18	672,521,073
SFY14	682,411,249	SFY19	666,175,348
SFY15	677,763,250	SFY20	695,311,638

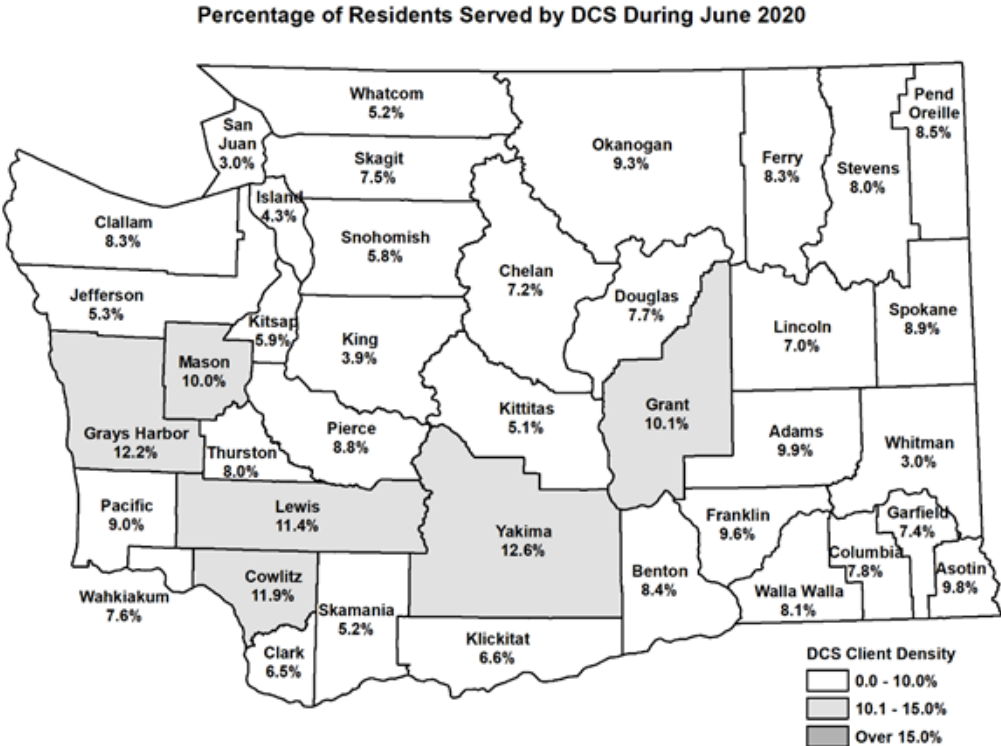
SFY 2020	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Collections
July	\$1,808,358	\$19,858,311	\$34,931,477	\$56,598,147
August	\$1,671,984	\$19,319,604	\$33,211,356	\$54,202,944
September	\$1,665,572	\$19,038,511	\$33,292,126	\$53,996,209
October	\$1,648,371	\$19,533,547	\$33,929,650	\$55,111,568
November	\$1,468,567	\$17,081,027	\$31,096,264	\$49,645,859
December	\$1,731,238	\$19,785,009	\$35,537,911	\$57,054,158
January	\$1,534,695	\$17,903,368	\$33,217,406	\$52,655,469
February	\$1,600,601	\$17,803,742	\$32,731,495	\$52,135,839
March	\$2,276,004	\$24,004,816	\$38,271,235	\$64,552,054
April	\$2,167,309	\$21,501,867	\$36,015,895	\$59,685,071
May	\$1,878,613	\$18,171,514	\$33,168,973	\$53,219,099
June	\$4,076,284	\$35,456,343	\$46,922,594	\$86,455,221
Total	\$23,527,596	\$249,457,659	\$422,326,383	\$695,311,638

Clients with DCS Cases by County of Residence, June 2020 Snapshot⁴

County	Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served	County	Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served
Adams	2,019	20,450	9.9%	Lewis	9,128	80,250	11.4%
Asotin	2,223	22,640	9.8%	Lincoln	774	11,050	7.0%
Benton	17,255	205,700	8.4%	Mason	6,594	65,650	10.0%
Chelan	5,771	79,660	7.2%	Okanogan	4,023	43,130	9.3%
Clallam	6,367	76,770	8.3%	Pacific	1,960	21,840	9.0%
Clark	32,288	499,200	6.5%	Pend Oreille	1,181	13,850	8.5%
Columbia	325	4,185	7.8%	Pierce	78,969	900,700	8.8%
Cowlitz	13,177	110,500	11.9%	San Juan	525	17,340	3.0%
Douglas	3,384	43,750	7.7%	Skagit	9,740	130,450	7.5%
Ferry	659	7,910	8.3%	Skamania	630	12,220	5.2%
Franklin	9,274	96,760	9.6%	Snohomish	47,950	830,500	5.8%
Garfield	165	2,225	7.4%	Spokane	46,528	522,600	8.9%
Grant	10,088	100,130	10.1%	Stevens	3,662	45,920	8.0%
Grays Harbor	9,081	74,720	12.2%	Thurston	23,179	291,000	8.0%
Island	3,665	85,530	4.3%	Wahkiakum	320	4,210	7.6%
Jefferson	1,693	32,190	5.3%	Walla Walla	5,098	62,580	8.1%
King	88,416	2,260,800	3.9%	Whatcom	11,893	228,000	5.2%
Kitsap	16,132	272,200	5.9%	Whitman	1,536	50,480	3.0%
Kittitas	2,435	48,140	5.1%	Yakima	32,592	258,200	12.6%
Klickitat	1,497	22,770	6.6%				
State Total	512,196	7,656,200	6.7%				

⁴ Population estimate source: Office of Financial Management (OFM) population estimates

Percentage of Total Population with a DCS Case by County, June 2020 Snapshot

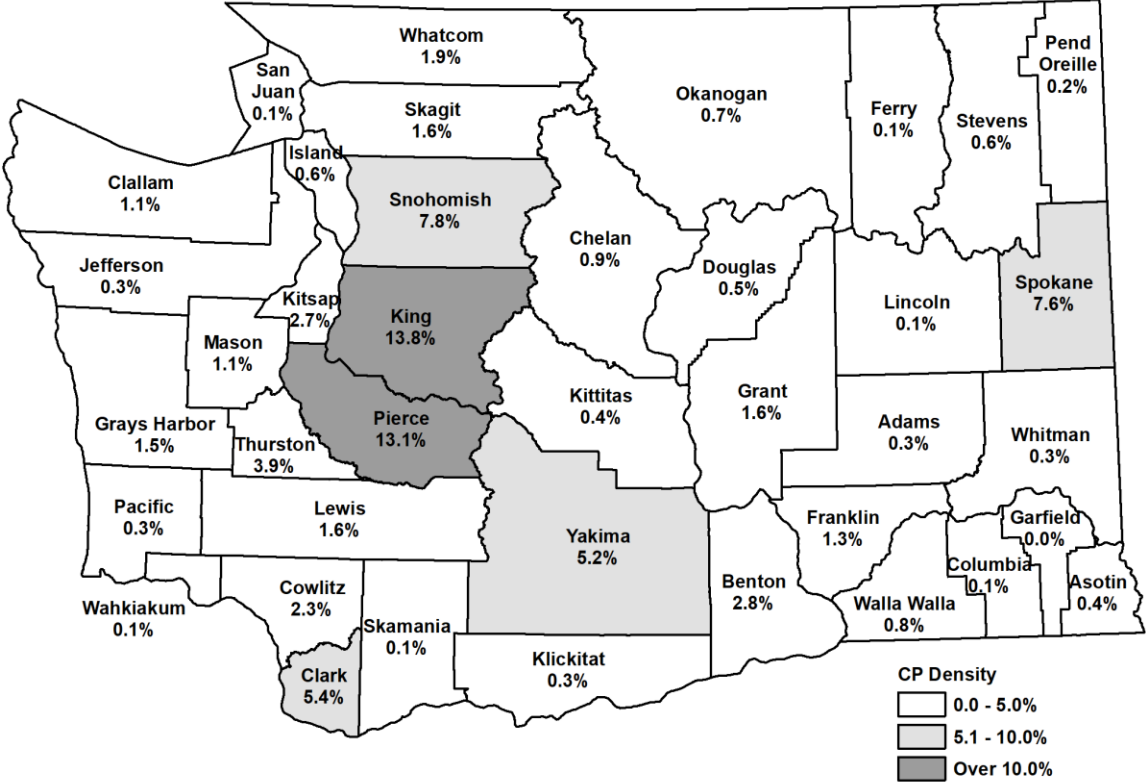


Note: The percentage of residents served is obtained by dividing the number of DCS clients in a county during June 2020 by the OFM 2020 County Population estimate.

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

Percentage of Custodial Parents (CP) by County, June 2020 Snapshot

Percentage of Custodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2020

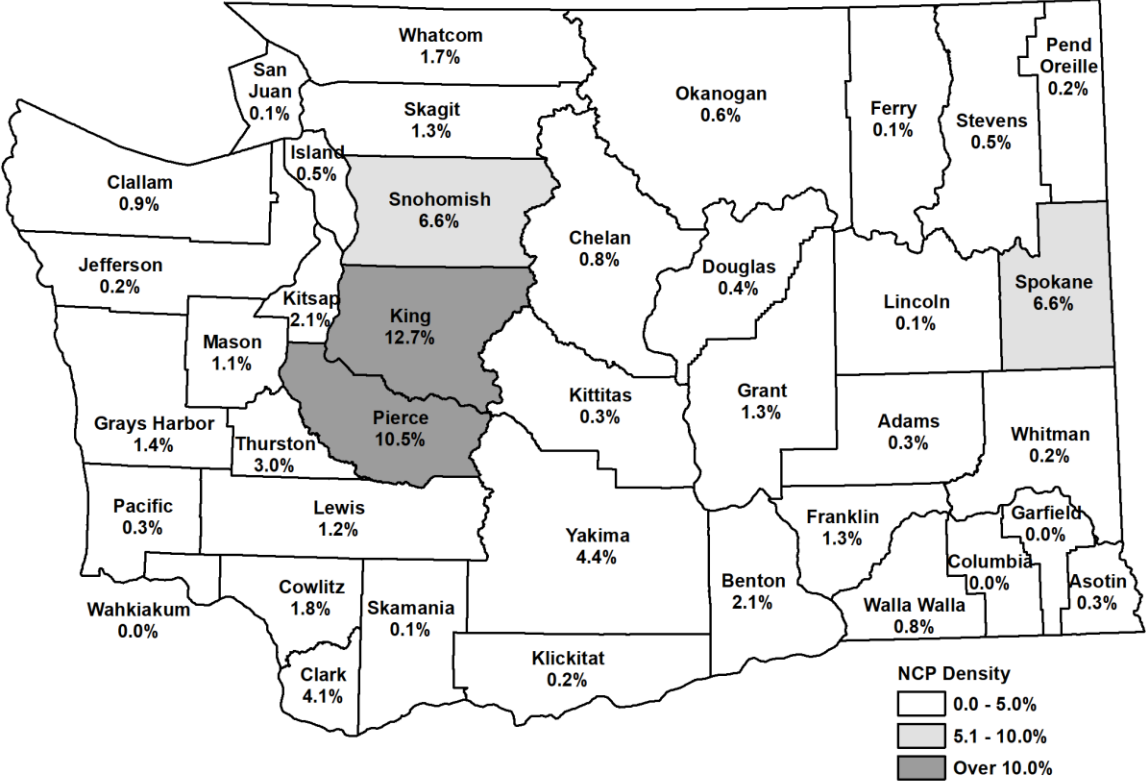


Note: 17.0% of CPs are out of state or do not have valid country address code.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2020

Percentage of Noncustodial Parents (NCP) by County, June 2020 Snapshot

Percentage of Noncustodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2020



Note: 30.0% of NCPs are out of state or do not have valid country address code.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2020

Child Support Cost Avoidance by Source, SFY 2020

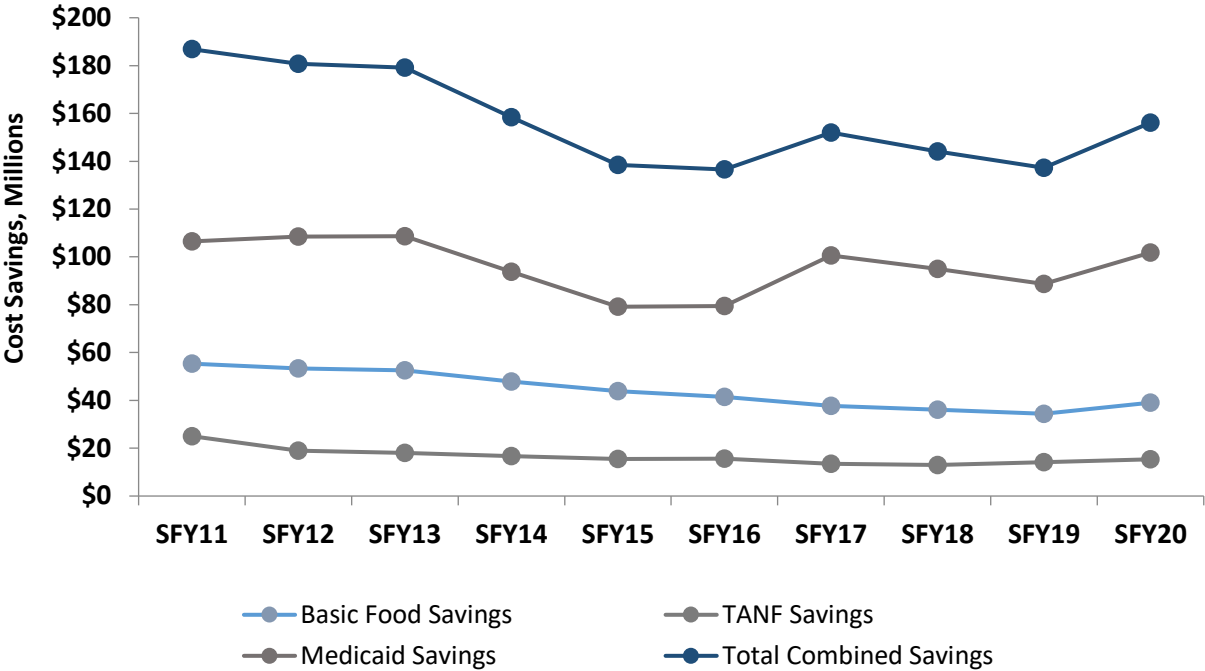
SFY 2020	Basic Food			TANF		
	Average CR ⁵ Basic Food Expenditure	Average CI ⁶ Basic Food Expenditure	Total Basic Food Savings	Average CR ⁵ TANF Expenditure	Average CI ⁶ TANF Expenditure	Total TANF Savings
July	\$68.56	\$114.48	\$2,700,748	\$6.27	\$25.16	\$1,135,051
August	\$68.64	\$114.98	\$2,706,856	\$6.31	\$25.32	\$1,125,030
September	\$67.77	\$115.22	\$2,773,295	\$6.34	\$25.47	\$1,133,937
October	\$68.74	\$116.42	\$2,773,522	\$6.24	\$26.17	\$1,195,871
November	\$67.31	\$115.90	\$2,798,623	\$6.04	\$25.78	\$1,151,343
December	\$66.35	\$115.83	\$2,864,033	\$5.70	\$26.53	\$1,233,407
January	\$65.35	\$115.33	\$2,915,920	\$5.57	\$26.57	\$1,253,230
February	\$65.62	\$115.00	\$2,842,644	\$5.86	\$26.75	\$1,222,103
March	\$106.64	\$164.25	\$3,495,877	\$5.99	\$26.07	\$1,186,885
April	\$156.57	\$226.36	\$4,495,319	\$7.00	\$29.74	\$1,387,027
May	\$159.29	\$230.12	\$4,537,332	\$8.36	\$34.87	\$1,606,484
June	\$154.36	\$217.97	\$4,162,816	\$9.44	\$36.78	\$1,678,037
Total			\$39,066,985			\$15,308,405

SFY 2020	Medicaid		
	Total Custodial Parent Medicaid Savings	Total Child Medicaid Savings	Total Medicaid Savings
July	\$3,622,862	\$5,140,442	\$8,763,304
August	\$3,499,162	\$4,554,901	\$8,054,063
September	\$3,830,528	\$4,197,862	\$8,028,389
October	\$3,284,376	\$4,996,942	\$8,281,318
November	\$3,319,171	\$5,018,147	\$8,337,318
December	\$3,363,250	\$4,709,457	\$8,072,707
January	\$3,874,183	\$5,678,775	\$9,552,958
February	\$3,542,537	\$5,266,205	\$8,808,742
March	\$3,822,001	\$6,514,506	\$10,336,507
April	\$3,199,027	\$4,329,357	\$7,528,384
May	\$3,323,790	\$4,537,731	\$7,861,521
June	\$3,497,108	\$4,619,277	\$8,116,385
Total	\$42,177,995	\$59,563,602	\$101,741,596

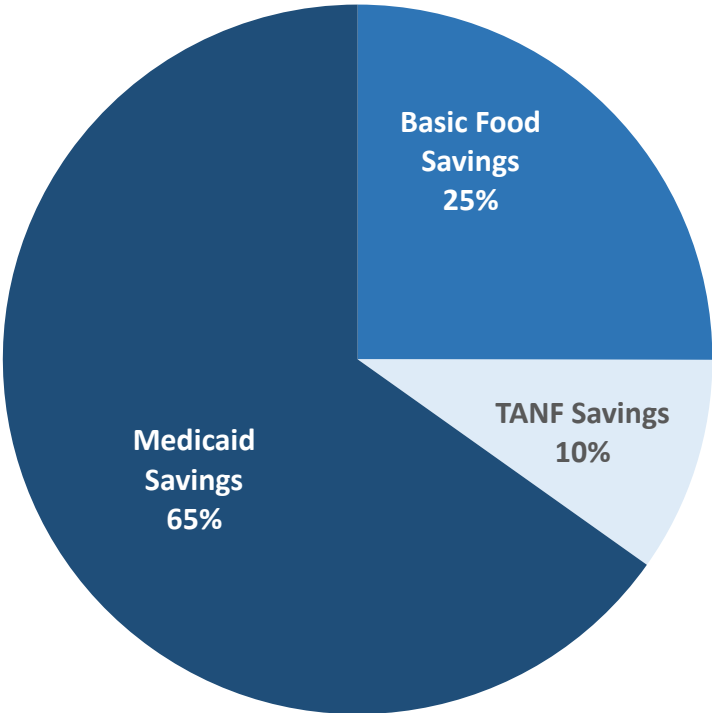
⁵ CR: Custodial parents with regular child support payments. Regular child support payments are defined as summed monthly order amount more than \$0 and summed total arrearage debt less than twice the summed monthly order amount.

⁶ CI: Custodial parents without regular child support payments.

Child Support Cost Avoidance by Source, SFY 2011 – SFY 2020



Sources of \$156.1 Million in Child Support Cost Avoidance, SFY 2020



Child Support Demographics, June 2020 Snapshot

Characteristic	Noncustodial Parents ⁷		Custodial Parents ⁸		Children	
	# of NCPs	Percent	# of CPs	Percent	# of Children	Percent
Total	216,460	100.0%	238,136	100.0%	241,403	100.0%

Gender	Noncustodial Parents		Custodial Parents		Children	
Female	34,465	15.9%	210,044	88.2%	118,808	49.2%
Male	181,705	83.9%	27,094	11.4%	122,527	50.8%
Unknown	290	0.1%	998	0.4%	68	<0.1%

Age of Parent	Noncustodial Parents		Custodial Parents		Children	
<26 Years Old	8,247	3.8%	10,472	4.4%	N/A	
26 – 35 Years Old	62,173	28.7%	68,304	28.7%		
36 – 45 Years Old	83,629	38.6%	86,562	36.3%		
46 – 55 Years Old	45,677	21.1%	46,207	19.4%		
56+ Years Old	15,218	7.0%	25,784	10.8%		
Not Reported/ Unidentifiable	1,516	0.7%	807	0.3%		

Age of Children	Children			
<6 Year Old	N/A		42,274	17.5%
6 – 10 Years Old			69,244	28.7%
11 – 15 Years Old			89,043	36.9%
16 – 18 Years Old			37,010	15.3%
19+ Years Old			3,783	1.6%
Not Reported/ Unidentifiable			49	<0.1%

Years	Noncustodial Parents	Custodial Parents	Children
Mean Age	41.0	41.9	11.0
Median Age	40.1	40.2	11.4

⁷ A noncustodial parent (NCP) may also be a custodial parent (CP) on another case.

⁸ A CP may also be an NCP on another case.

Special Grants/Projects

Families Forward Washington (FFW) – DCS, along with child support agencies located in Michigan, New York, and Ohio are working with MDRC and local service providers on the Families Forward Demonstration project. The opportunity was made available by MDRC through a generous grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The goal is to identify effective employment-focused approaches that can be integrated into child support programs across the country. DCS’s project, Families Forward Washington (FFW), is testing 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. FFW provides in-demand occupational skills training, career counseling, job development and retention services, and responsive child support services to eligible noncustodial parents residing in Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties. The project seeks 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. Recruitment began in November 2018. Program activities will be completed in June 2021.

Strength in Families (SIF) – DCS is a project partner with the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) on the Responsible Fatherhood Opportunities for Reentry and Mobility (ReFORM) grant project. The grant was awarded to DOC by the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in October, 2015. Washington’s ReFORM project, known as Strength in Families (SIF), supports parents, 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. Program participants receive action plans, which may include working with community partners who can help with employment, housing, food, medical, and legal resources upon release. Alternative Solutions program specialists provide responsive child support services to SIF participants to help lower monthly payments or reduce state arrears when appropriate, navigate the child support system, and help with enforcement actions.

Behavioral Interventions for Child Support Services (BICS) – In September 2014, DCS was awarded two Behavioral Interventions for Child Support Services (BICS) Grants from the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) to test pilot projects that apply behavioral economics to child support services. A total of eight states/districts were awarded BICS Demonstration Grants to test behaviorally informed interventions that seek to improve child support outcomes. DCS tested the use of behaviorally-informed strategies during the administrative establishment process, the early stages of order enforcement, and the modification process for newly incarcerated parents. Successful strategies are currently being reviewed and implemented. The BICS Evaluation Grant provided technical assistance and evaluation services for the all eight BICS Grantees. DCS was selected as the sole agency to receive this larger, overarching grant award

which produced a final report for the entire project as well as site briefs for each grantee.

Using Digital Marketing to Increase Participation in the Child Support Program – DCS, along with tribal and child support programs located in California, Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming are testing digital marketing approaches and partnerships for outreach to families that could benefit from child support services. The goal of the digital marketing grant is to increase program awareness and participation in the child support program, as well as build the digital marketing capacity of DCS. The two-year grant was awarded to DCS in September, 2018 by the Office of Child Support Enforcement. DCS developed three interventions with support from evaluation and digital marketing consultants: Facebook ads, Peachjar email flyers, and iHeartRadio streaming audio ads. DCS has conducted multi-month digital marketing campaigns in each channel to build awareness of child support’s benefits and test each strategy’s efficacy. The third intervention, streaming audio ads, will end in October 2020. A full evaluation will follow.

Intergovernmental Case Processing – DCS was awarded this two year 1115 Demonstration grant from OCSE in September 2019 along with seven other states and two tribes. The mission for the grantees is to test innovations that will increase payments on intergovernmental child support cases and improve case processing procedures for parents. For the purposes of this project DCS will focus on our working relationships with Mexico and Canada. The project involves four main objectives: increase the number of intergovernmental cases, increase the average amount of support collected, decrease the amount of time it takes to establish a support order, and reduce the amount of time it takes to receive a payment. Specific interventions are scheduled to run through June 2021.

The Alternative Solutions Program – This statewide program was implemented by DCS in July 2014 to assist parents struggling to meet their child support obligations. The program connects these parents to community resources that can help them remove barriers to paying child support, such as work-related training, education, and supportive services. Between July 2014 and August 2020 the voluntary program received 5,588 referrals. During the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019 1,082 parents were served, and 86% successfully connected with needed resources to address barriers. The program is embraced by parents, field staff, prosecuting attorney staff, and community partners. This cooperative effort generates real-life success stories as parents reach their full human potential.

Voluntary Acknowledgments and Genetic Testing

Parentage Program Background

The Washington State Parentage Program (originally known as the Paternity Affidavit Program) began in July 1989 as a partnership between the Division of Child Support (DCS) and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). The program provides cooperative unmarried parents the opportunity to sign an Acknowledgment of Parentage at the child's birth or a later date. Most Acknowledgments of Parentage are signed at a birthing hospital or midwife practice. Based on its success of increasing paternity establishment 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, 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 Chapter 26.26 RCW are the applicable state laws.

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

Effects of the Acknowledgment of Parentage: A properly signed and filed Acknowledgment of Parentage creates a legal determination of parentage immediately without the need for a court order. Parentage for a child of unmarried parents must be legally established before we can establish a child support order determining the noncustodial parent's financial and medical obligations, unless the woman who gave birth to the child is the NCP. The determination of parentage 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 Acknowledgment of Parentage 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 Acknowledgment of Parentage, which is a much quicker and less costly process than establishing parentage through the courts. 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 administrative Parentage Program, DCS saves taxpayers more than \$13,000,000 yearly. In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020, paternity was established for 12,713 children, 79.8% of them by Paternity Acknowledgment/Acknowledgment of Parentage.

Changes to the Uniform Parentage Act (UPA) Effective January 1, 2019: The Washington State Legislature enacted major changes to the UPA in the spring of 2018. These changes went into effect January 1, 2019 and expanded the use of the Acknowledgment to include presumed parents and intended parents, in addition to biological parents. The Paternity Acknowledgment form completely changed and became known as the Acknowledgment of Parentage (AOP).

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 state's paternity/parentage program, but are now. Washington law required notarized signatures on the Acknowledgment or Denial of Paternity, which were in effect through 2018. The Acknowledgment of Parentage (AOP), Denial of Parentage (DOP), and Rescission of Parentage (ROP) forms which have been in effect since 1/1/2019, give the parents the option of signing in front of a witness or a notary. Some hospitals have opted to offer only the notary option to parents. DCS reimburses hospitals for the cost to add Notaries Public, which historically increased the opportunity for parents to sign a Paternity Acknowledgment. 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 they are the child's biological parents before signing an Acknowledgment.