

# Child Support Program

SFY

# 2022

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DCS delivers child support services including the establishment of parentage, and the establishment, modification and enforcement of child support orders (financial and medical) so families have resources they need for children to thrive.

ESA Briefing  
Book

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## 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 (TANF) or Aid to Families with Dependent Children (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, leading to less reliance on public assistance programs and greater economic security.

Additional information, 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 2022 caseload. Data for incentive payments are provided by DCS.

**DATA NOTE:**

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

## Child Support Program Highlights, SFY 2022

- The average monthly child support caseload was 276,267 in SFY 2022, representing a 6% decrease from 294,069 in SFY 2021. Within this caseload, average monthly Current Assistance cases decreased by 4.3% from 29,623 in SFY 2021 to 28,365 in SFY 2022; Former Assistance cases decreased by 8.0% from 153,670 to 141,348; and Never Assistance cases decreased by 3.8% from 110,777 to 106,555.
  - The child support program collected a total of \$669.1 million in SFY 2022.
  - The total cost avoidance in SFY 2022 was \$182.5 million. Of the total, \$99.7 million (54.6%) was for the Medicaid program; \$58.4 million (32.0%) was for the Basic Food program; and \$24.4 million (13.4%) 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 are signed by unmarried birth mothers/parents and a second parent. 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 25,740 births to unmarried birth mothers/parents. DOH reported that 21,108 (82.0%) of 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 Incentive<sup>1</sup> Scorecard, FFY 2021<sup>2</sup> and FFY 2022<sup>3</sup>

Measure	Goal Needed to Obtain Maximum Incentive Funding	Actual Performance		Estimated Percentage of Maximum Incentive Reached	
		2021	2022	2021	2022
<b>Paternity Establishment Percentage</b>	80%	95.4%	95.9%	100%	100%
<b>Support Order Establishment</b>	80%	93.1%	91.3%	100%	100%
<b>Current Collections</b>	80%	68.6%	65.3%	78%	75%
<b>Arrearage Collections</b>	80%	67.9%	62.8%	77%	72%
<b>Cost Effectiveness</b>	5.00	4.32	3.29	80%	60%

### 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.

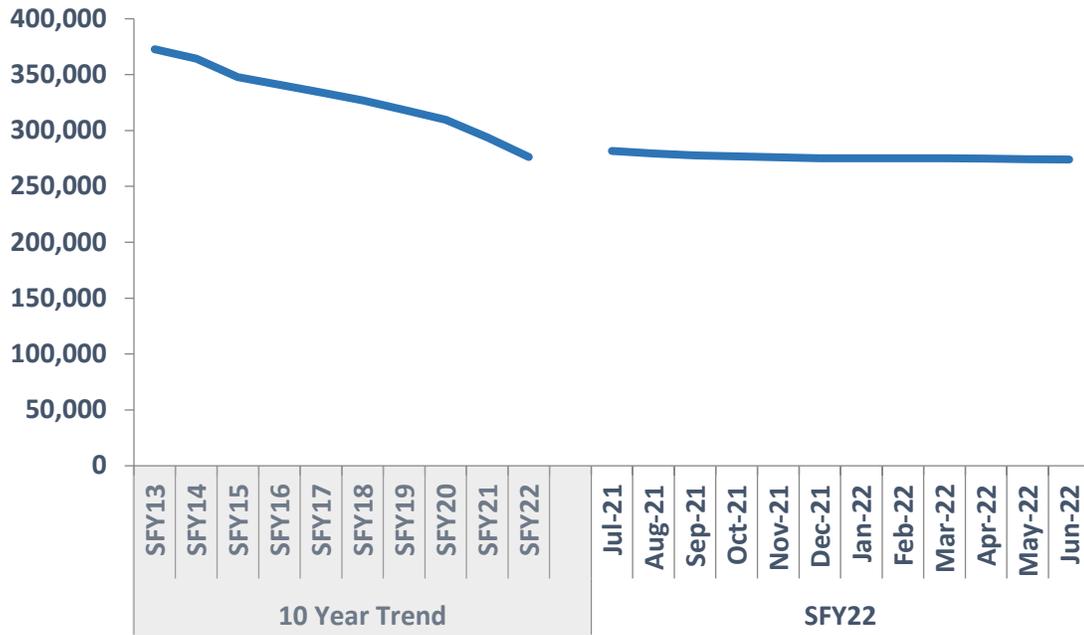
**Cost-effectiveness:** Total IV-D dollars collected divided by total IV-D dollars expended.

<sup>1</sup> DCS incentive payments for FFY 2021 are based on DCS actual FFY 2021 performance and OCSE FFY 2021 preliminary performance results for all other states. DCS incentive payments for FFY 2022 are based on DCS actual FFY 2022 performance and OCSE FFY 2022 preliminary performance results for all other states. Data source: DCS Fiscal Office

<sup>2</sup> FFY 2021 data is from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) 2020 Preliminary Report.

<sup>3</sup> FFY 2022 data is preliminary based on unaudited federal reports.

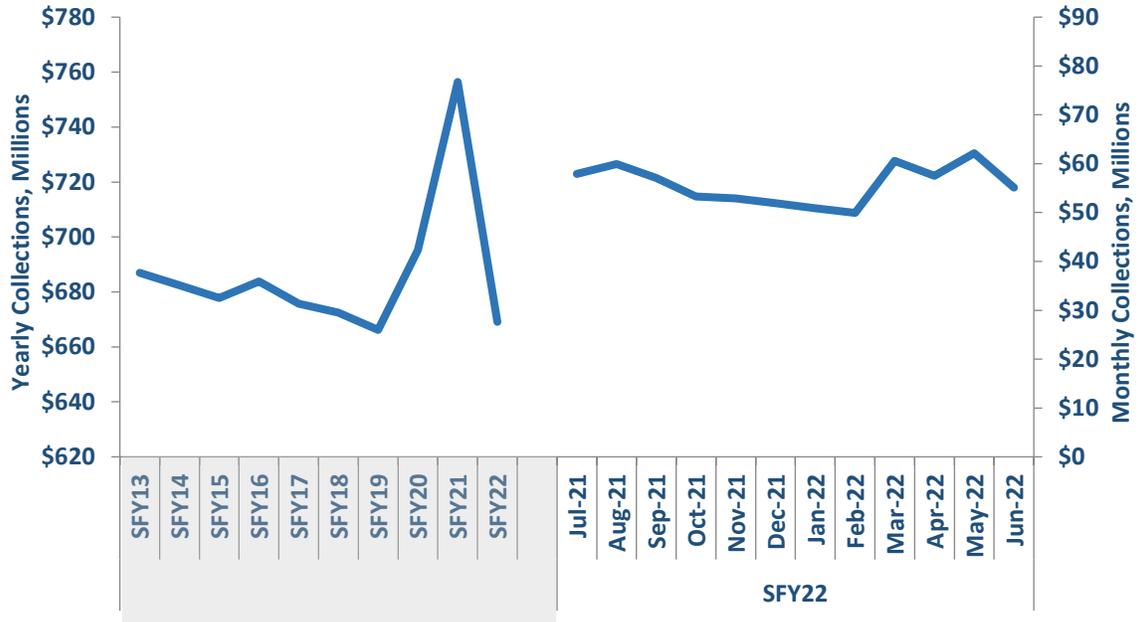
### Child Support Caseload, SFY 2013 – SFY 2022



SFY	Monthly Average Caseload	SFY	Monthly Average Caseload
SFY13	372,701	SFY18	326,923
SFY14	364,295	SFY19	318,444
SFY15	347,740	SFY20	309,616
SFY16	340,919	SFY21	294,069
SFY17	334,027	SFY22	276,267

SFY 2022	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Caseload
July	26,510	146,258	108,867	281,635
August	26,210	145,391	107,862	279,463
September	26,633	144,068	106,935	277,636
October	27,602	142,662	106,583	276,847
November	27,562	142,057	106,379	275,998
December	27,505	141,413	106,129	275,047
January	29,134	139,807	106,094	275,035
February	29,249	139,820	106,120	275,189
March	29,560	139,400	106,077	275,037
April	30,117	138,857	106,002	274,976
May	30,120	138,332	105,822	274,274
June	30,176	138,105	105,787	274,068
Mo. Avg.	28,365	141,348	106,555	276,267

### Child Support Collections, SFY 2013 – SFY 2022



SFY	Collections	SFY	Collections
SFY13	686,994,705	SFY18	672,521,073
SFY14	682,411,249	SFY19	666,175,348
SFY15	677,763,250	SFY20	695,311,638
SFY16	683,807,632	SFY21	756,412,192
SFY17	675,702,583	SFY22	669,143,007

SFY 2022	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Collections
July	\$2,390,056	\$20,800,529	\$34,734,294	\$57,924,879
August	\$2,453,114	\$21,781,808	\$35,684,484	\$59,919,406
September	\$2,339,450	\$20,623,990	\$34,071,082	\$57,034,522
October	\$1,995,584	\$18,716,940	\$32,588,515	\$53,301,038
November	\$1,874,328	\$18,219,261	\$32,795,533	\$52,889,122
December	\$1,845,726	\$17,472,274	\$32,575,553	\$51,893,553
January	\$1,865,955	\$16,803,550	\$32,234,710	\$50,904,215
February	\$1,819,366	\$16,534,995	\$31,576,769	\$49,931,129
March	\$2,821,255	\$21,172,405	\$36,579,034	\$60,572,693
April	\$2,653,966	\$20,244,132	\$34,599,016	\$57,497,114
May	\$2,989,516	\$22,565,596	\$36,586,637	\$62,141,749
June	\$2,192,628	\$18,994,549	\$33,946,409	\$55,133,585
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,240,943</b>	<b>\$233,930,029</b>	<b>\$407,972,035</b>	<b>\$669,143,007</b>

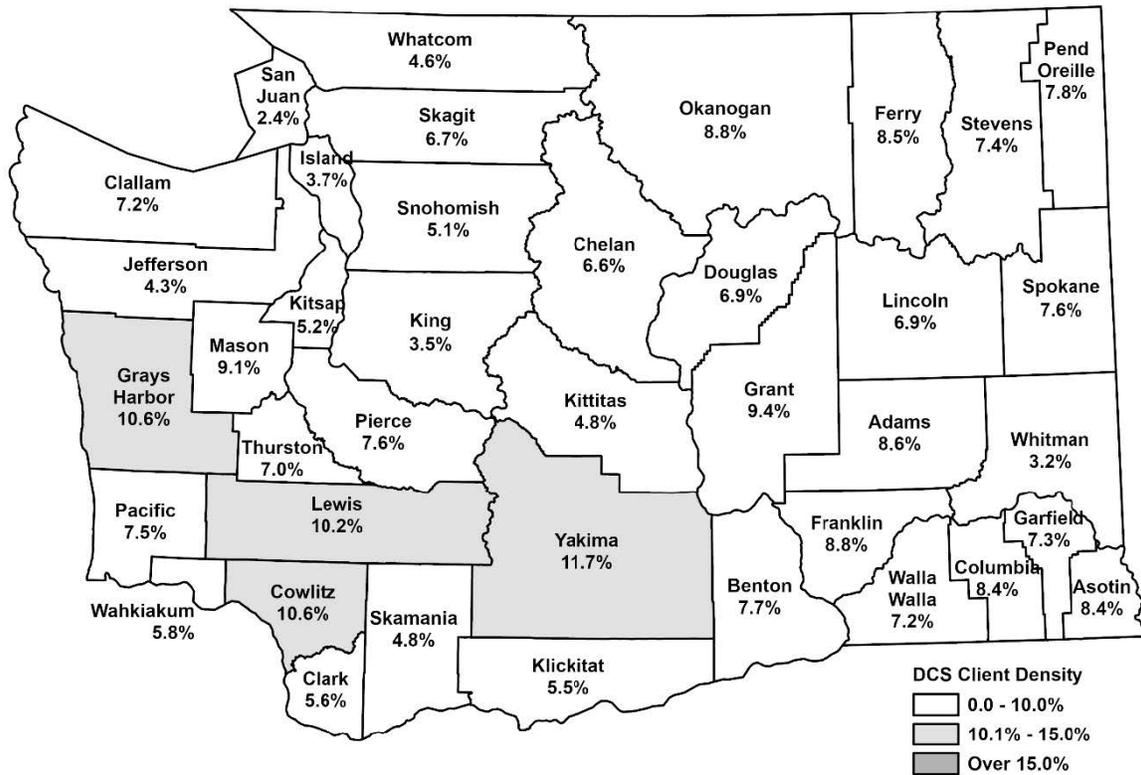
**Clients with DCS Cases by County of Residence, June 2022 Snapshot<sup>4</sup>**

County	Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served	County	Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served
Adams	1,825	21,100	8.6%	Lewis	8,476	83,400	10.2%
Asotin	1,897	22,600	8.4%	Lincoln	763	11,050	6.9%
Benton	16,453	212,300	7.7%	Mason	6,034	66,200	9.1%
Chelan	5,353	80,650	6.6%	Okanogan	3,777	42,700	8.8%
Clallam	5,592	77,625	7.2%	Pacific	1,770	23,600	7.5%
Clark	29,217	520,900	5.6%	Pend Oreille	1,067	13,625	7.8%
Columbia	332	3,950	8.4%	Pierce	70,850	937,400	7.6%
Cowlitz	11,903	112,350	10.6%	San Juan	436	18,150	2.4%
Douglas	3,050	44,000	6.9%	Skagit	8,797	131,250	6.7%
Ferry	619	7,300	8.5%	Skamania	571	11,900	4.8%
Franklin	8,796	99,750	8.8%	Snohomish	43,260	847,300	5.1%
Garfield	169	2,300	7.3%	Spokane	41,686	550,700	7.6%
Grant	9,542	101,800	9.4%	Stevens	3,491	47,050	7.4%
Grays Harbor	8,075	76,400	10.6%	Thurston	21,148	300,500	7.0%
Island	3,262	87,700	3.7%	Wahkiakum	264	4,525	5.8%
Jefferson	1,426	33,350	4.3%	Walla Walla	4,536	62,625	7.2%
King	80,219	2,317,700	3.5%	Whatcom	10,654	231,650	4.6%
Kitsap	14,659	280,900	5.2%	Whitman	1,512	47,800	3.2%
Kittitas	2,264	47,200	4.8%	Yakima	30,343	259,950	11.7%
Klickitat	1,269	23,150	5.5%				
<b>State Total</b>	<b>465,357</b>	<b>7,864,400</b>	<b>5.9%</b>				

<sup>4</sup> Population estimate source: Office of Financial Management (OFM) population estimates

## Percentage of Total Population with a DCS Case by County, June 2022 Snapshot

Percentage of Residents Served by DCS During June 2022

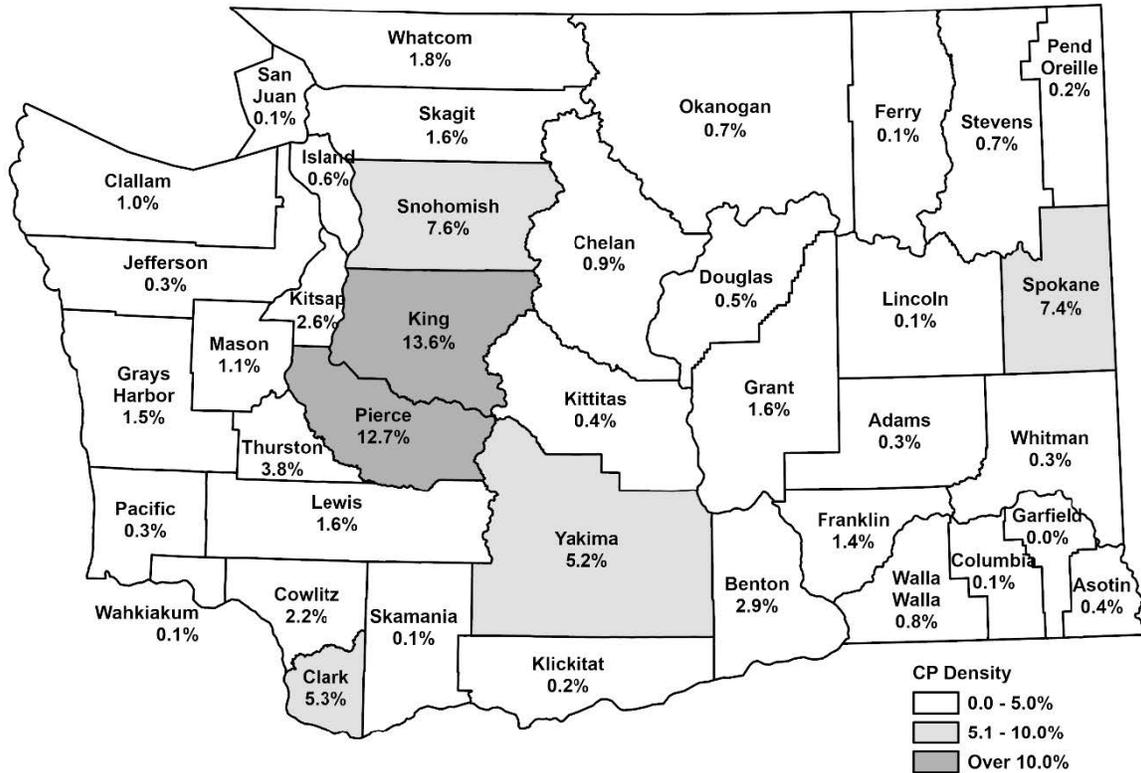


Note: The percentage of residents served is obtained by dividing the number of DCS clients in a county during June 2022 by the OFM 2022 County Population estimate.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/ EMAPS - Aug. 2022

## Percentage of Custodial Parents (CP) by County, June 2022 Snapshot

Percentage of Custodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2022

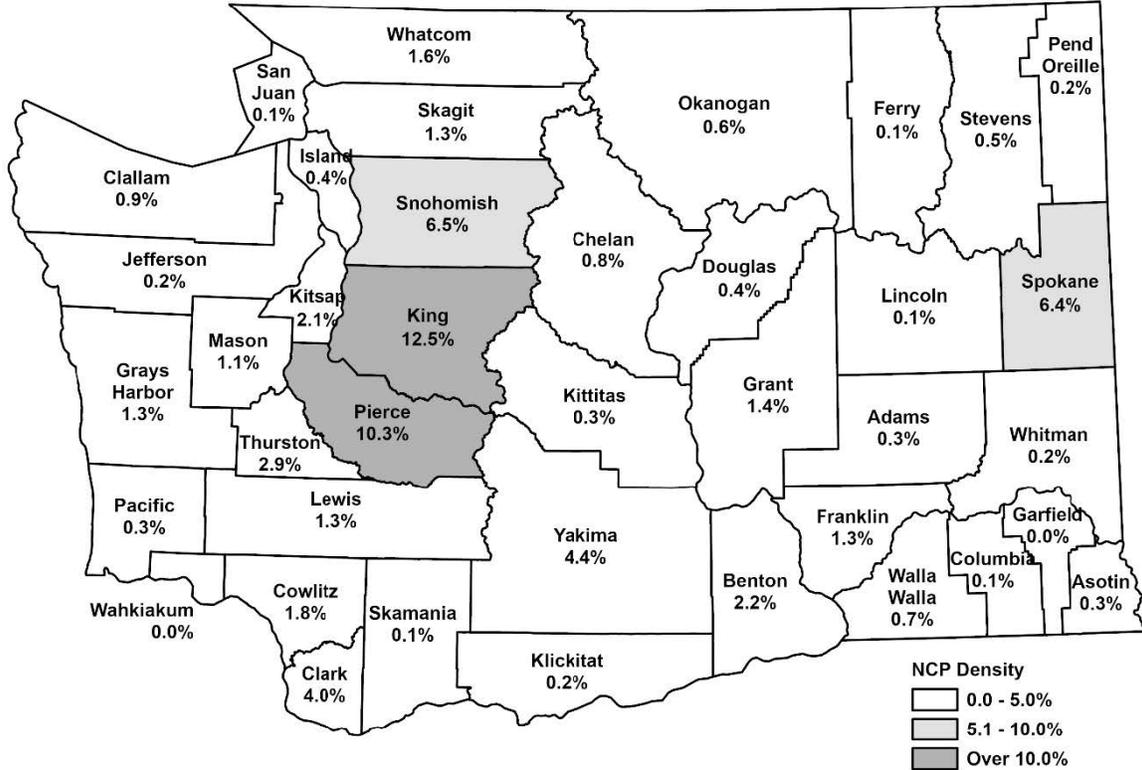


Note: 18.0% of CPs are out of state or do not have valid county address code.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/ EMAPS - Aug. 2022

# Percentage of Noncustodial Parents (NCP) by County, June 2022 Snapshot

Percentage of Noncustodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2022



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

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### Child Support Cost Avoidance by Source, SFY 2022

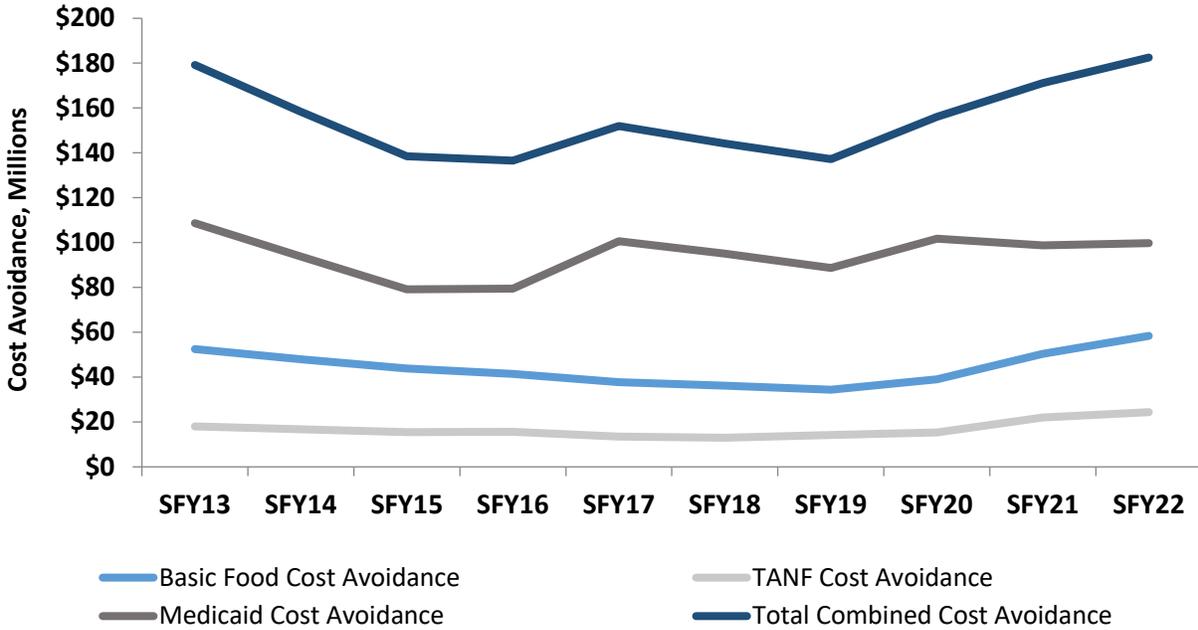
SFY 2022	Basic Food			TANF		
	Average CR <sup>5</sup> Basic Food Expenditure	Average CI <sup>6</sup> Basic Food Expenditure	Total Basic Food Cost Avoidance	Average CR <sup>5</sup> TANF Expenditure	Average CI <sup>6</sup> TANF Expenditure	Total TANF Cost Avoidance
July	\$153.01	\$222.29	\$4,617,797	\$12.27	\$41.99	\$1,949,508
August	\$148.87	\$218.53	\$4,556,701	\$11.93	\$42.17	\$1,930,395
September	\$142.49	\$215.40	\$4,656,785	\$11.26	\$41.45	\$1,885,223
October	\$153.03	\$235.20	\$4,962,766	\$12.20	\$46.20	\$2,021,799
November	\$148.32	\$234.47	\$4,979,454	\$11.63	\$47.49	\$2,030,428
December	\$145.06	\$233.60	\$5,016,984	\$11.54	\$47.83	\$2,026,868
January	\$148.42	\$237.71	\$4,995,169	\$11.48	\$48.91	\$2,077,685
February	\$149.85	\$239.53	\$4,938,692	\$11.45	\$50.52	\$2,118,288
March	\$151.58	\$240.06	\$4,946,086	\$11.91	\$50.03	\$2,093,603
April	\$153.31	\$242.98	\$5,034,409	\$11.82	\$49.55	\$2,093,032
May	\$156.24	\$244.31	\$4,926,588	\$11.53	\$49.82	\$2,100,116
June	\$158.00	\$244.06	\$4,766,798	\$11.61	\$49.77	\$2,061,943
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$58,398,229</b>			<b>\$24,388,888</b>

SFY 2022	Medicaid		
	Total Custodial Parent Medicaid Cost Avoidance	Total Child Medicaid Cost Avoidance	Total Medicaid Cost Avoidance
July	\$4,293,234	\$2,687,948	\$6,981,182
August	\$3,931,111	\$4,018,905	\$7,950,015
September	\$4,275,371	\$4,267,779	\$8,543,150
October	\$4,182,494	\$4,563,652	\$8,746,146
November	\$3,896,734	\$3,917,025	\$7,813,759
December	\$3,985,079	\$3,618,122	\$7,603,201
January	\$4,676,405	\$4,029,776	\$8,706,181
February	\$4,272,872	\$4,165,829	\$8,438,701
March	\$4,195,863	\$4,407,930	\$8,603,793
April	\$4,561,042	\$4,270,076	\$8,831,118
May	\$4,374,644	\$4,628,221	\$9,002,865
June	\$4,109,471	\$4,395,939	\$8,505,409
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,754,320</b>	<b>\$48,971,201</b>	<b>\$99,725,521</b>

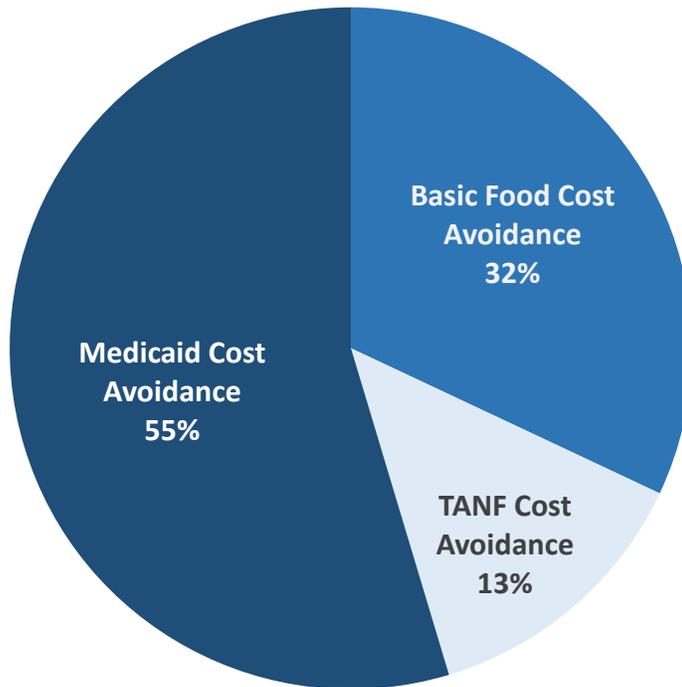
<sup>5</sup> CR: Custodial parents with regular child support payments. Regular child support payments are defined as summed monthly order amount more than \$0 and summed total arrearage debt less than twice the summed monthly order amount.

<sup>6</sup> CI: Custodial parents without regular child support payments.

### Child Support Cost Avoidance by Source, SFY 2013 – SFY 2022



Sources of \$182.5 Million in Child Support Cost Avoidance, SFY 2022



## Child Support Demographics, June 2022 Snapshot

Characteristic	Noncustodial Parents <sup>7</sup>		Custodial Parents <sup>8</sup>		Children	
	# of NCPs	Percent	# of CPs	Percent	# of Children	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>196,799</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>217,085</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>221,804</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Gender	Noncustodial Parents		Custodial Parents		Children	
<b>Female</b>	30,056	15.3%	192,285	88.6%	109,124	49.2%
<b>Male</b>	166,498	84.6%	23,958	11.0%	112,619	50.8%
<b>Unknown<sup>9</sup></b>	245	0.1%	842	0.4%	61	<0.1%

Age of Parent	Noncustodial Parents		Custodial Parents		Children	
<b>&lt;26 Years Old</b>	6,143	3.1%	8,165	3.8%	N/A	
<b>26 – 35 Years Old</b>	52,557	26.7%	59,048	27.2%		
<b>36 – 45 Years Old</b>	79,645	40.5%	82,652	38.1%		
<b>46 – 55 Years Old</b>	41,984	21.3%	42,508	19.6%		
<b>56+ Years Old</b>	14,484	7.4%	24,062	11.1%		
<b>Not Reported/ Unidentifiable</b>	1,986	1.0%	650	0.3%		

Age of Children	Children			
<b>&lt;6 Year Old</b>	N/A		35,881	16.2%
<b>6 – 10 Years Old</b>			61,273	27.6%
<b>11 – 15 Years Old</b>			84,626	38.2%
<b>16 – 18 Years Old</b>			36,594	16.5%
<b>19+ Years Old</b>			3,391	1.5%
<b>Not Reported/ Unidentifiable</b>			39	<0.1%

Years	Noncustodial Parents	Custodial Parents	Children
<b>Mean Age</b>	41.5	42.3	11.2
<b>Median Age</b>	40.7	40.6	11.8

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

<sup>8</sup> A CP may also be an NCP on another case.

<sup>9</sup> Currently, the SEMS system has a limited gender field capacity, which means that non-binary customers will be included in 'Unknown' as well customers that do not have clearly identified gender designation.

### Child Support Tribal Caseload, SFY 2022

SFY 2022	Total Child Support TANF/Foster Care	Child Support Tribal TANF/Foster Care	% of Child Support Tribal TANF/Foster Care	Total Child Support Former Assistance	Tribal Child Support Former Assistance	% of Tribal Former Assistance
July	26,510	2,353	8.9%	146,258	6,862	4.7%
August	26,210	2,335	8.9%	145,391	6,828	4.7%
September	26,633	2,258	8.5%	144,068	6,574	4.6%
October	27,602	2,267	8.2%	142,662	6,532	4.6%
November	27,562	2,238	8.1%	142,057	6,465	4.6%
December	27,505	2,195	8.0%	141,413	6,114	4.3%
January	29,134	2,200	7.6%	139,807	6,020	4.3%
February	29,249	2,196	7.5%	139,820	6,047	4.3%
March	29,560	2,020	6.8%	139,400	5,241	3.8%
April	30,117	2,047	6.8%	138,857	5,204	3.7%
May	30,120	2,027	6.7%	138,332	5,196	3.8%
June	30,176	2,015	6.7%	138,105	5,186	3.8%
Mo. Avg.	28,365	2,179		141,348	6,022	

SFY 2022	Total Child Support Never Assistance	Child Support Tribal Never Assistance	% of Child Support Tribal Never Assistance	Total Child Support	Total Child Support Tribal	% of Child Support Tribal
July	108,867	3,177	2.9%	281,635	12,392	4.4%
August	107,862	3,171	2.9%	279,463	12,334	4.4%
September	106,935	3,035	2.8%	277,636	11,867	4.3%
October	106,583	3,012	2.8%	276,847	11,811	4.3%
November	106,379	2,959	2.8%	275,998	11,662	4.2%
December	106,129	2,727	2.6%	275,047	11,036	4.0%
January	106,094	2,709	2.6%	275,035	10,929	4.0%
February	106,120	2,712	2.6%	275,189	10,955	4.0%
March	106,077	2,438	2.3%	275,037	9,699	3.5%
April	106,002	2,433	2.3%	274,976	9,684	3.5%
May	105,822	2,401	2.3%	274,274	9,624	3.5%
June	105,787	2,403	2.3%	274,068	9,604	3.5%
Mo. Avg.	106,555	2,765		276,267	10,966	

## Child Support Tribal Collections, SFY 2022

SFY 2022	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total Child Support Collections
July	\$85,940	\$376,593	\$348,664	\$811,196
August	\$116,692	\$455,191	\$357,919	\$929,801
September	\$85,679	\$385,531	\$357,567	\$828,777
October	\$64,420	\$469,462	\$319,709	\$853,592
November	\$61,559	\$357,462	\$344,088	\$763,109
December	\$59,827	\$259,377	\$252,846	\$572,050
January	\$55,567	\$265,630	\$257,534	\$578,731
February	\$72,699	\$246,368	\$263,917	\$582,983
March	\$84,162	\$303,785	\$291,088	\$679,035
April	\$84,573	\$256,992	\$274,392	\$615,958
May	\$74,470	\$353,264	\$315,161	\$742,895
June	\$62,814	\$248,860	\$251,966	\$563,641
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$908,402</b>	<b>\$3,978,514</b>	<b>\$3,634,852</b>	<b>\$8,521,767</b>

## Special Grants/Projects

**Charting a Course for Economic Mobility and Responsible Parenting** – The Office of Child Support Enforcement awarded DCS \$1 million dollars to participate in the second cohort of the Charting a Course for Economic Mobility and Responsible Parenting demonstration. The goal of this project is to provide youth and young adults with opportunities to gain the knowledge, skills, and access to resources that are likely to lead to success in their pursuit of life goals, economic mobility, and responsible parenting. DCS is collaborating with high schools and fatherhood organizations to deliver child support and responsible parenting curriculum to teens and young adults and connect them with resources in their area.

**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 June 2022 the voluntary program received 6,795 referrals. During SFY 2021, Alternative Solutions served 576 parents. The program maintains a database of over 4,700 resources with a version available to the public, allowing any Washingtonian to connect with local community resources. The program is embraced by parents, field staff, prosecuting attorney staff, and community partners. This cooperative effort generates real-life success stories as parents work through barriers and meet their child support obligations.

**Tribal Partnerships** – Through mutual respect and trust, DCS and tribes have worked collaboratively for over 30 years to improve and provide child support services to Washington families. Currently in Washington state, there are eight federally-funded tribal child support programs and 11 Tribal TANF programs. Additionally, Recognized American Indian Organizations (RAIOs) provide supports to Native people in both urban and rural areas. Partnerships are especially vital when the state or a tribe lacks jurisdiction to enforce child support. Intergovernmental and cooperative agreements allow DCS to offer federal enforcement remedies to tribal programs, and for tribal programs to provide remedies that would not otherwise be available to the state. Government-to-government efforts with tribes and tribal organizations promote tribal and state sovereignty and ensure that comprehensive, culturally appropriate services are being delivered to all American Indians and Alaska Natives in Washington state.

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## 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 midwifery 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 45 CFR 303.5 (g) provides the applicable federal regulations; RCW 70.58A.100 and Chapter 26.26A 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 the child support order determining the noncustodial parent's financial and medical obligations. 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 saves taxpayers millions of dollars each year as a result for the administrative Parentage Program. In SFY 2022, parentage was established for 10,610 children, 80.9% of them by Acknowledgment of Parentage.

**DCS Parentage and Paternity Newsletter**

As of January 2022, the DCS Parentage and Paternity Newsletter resumed electronic publication. The quarterly newsletter is published in order to share information about parentage and paternity with hospitals and other providers. Other DCS partners also subscribe to the newsletter.

**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: reimbursement for notaries and no-cost genetic testing. These strategies were not previously 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 an 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. Completing genetic testing gives parents the ability to confirm they are the child's biological parents before signing an Acknowledgment.