

Division of Child Support

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Economic Services Administration

The Washington State Child Support Program

- Helps families weather the challenges of child rearing through the collection and distribution of more than \$669 million for SFY 22 in child support annually.
- Partners with parents to address the changing needs of families by providing resources to modify child support orders.
- Provides support for families who are rebuilding after experiencing one of life's storms with referrals to resources for services inside and outside DSHS.

DCS contributes to the well-being of our children, parents and communities by:

- **Providing as much as 63% of the income of very poor families.** Stable family incomes create strong foundations for children as they grow, allowing them to realize their full potential.
- **Connecting parents** who need living-wage jobs to training programs and other resources.
- **Improving our comprehensive family-centered approach** by investing in innovative practices such as using analytics to most effectively handle cases, using better interviewing techniques and focusing on the needs of each family member.

Other innovations include:

- Working to ensure consistent month-to-month payments from parents.
- Continuing partnerships with other agencies, tribes and community partners to enhance coordination and improve performance in order to provide a more complete customer service experience.
- Partnering with 13 state and tribal child support programs to participate in a federally funded grant to review policies, conduct research, and refine program design to increase safe access to child support and parenting time services for domestic violence survivors.

DCS helps parents and children

reach their full potential and contribute to our communities by making sure they have the resources to thrive. When parents contribute, they are more likely to have closer relationships with their children, which benefits the entire family. Child support makes sure children have what we all need to build a solid foundation in our lives: healthy meals, safe housing and educational opportunities.

More information:

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Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Transforming lives

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Child Support Facts

Current Support

We continue to develop new ways of working with parents to deliver the services they need for the success of their families.

65.2% represents over \$456 million in child support collected this last fiscal year, in the month it was due.



68.5%
FFY 2021
65.2%
FFY 2022

Helping Kids Reach Their Full Potential

We collaborate with government and community partners to help children and families achieve their full potential and contribute to our state's vibrant, healthy communities. In SFY 22 the Division of Child Support served nearly 630,000 customers (monthly average for SFY 22).

We served these customers by providing a variety of child support services such as establishing parentage; enforcing, establishing and modifying child support orders; providing medical support enforcement; and collecting and disbursing payments.

All Washingtonians

We strive to support all Washingtonians by providing accessible services that communities need.

Last year, one in 15 residents benefited from Division of Child Support programs. We help people find the support they need to achieve well-being. Children who are supported financially and emotionally contribute to their communities as healthier, better-educated and more employable adults.

Cost Avoidance

Child support cost avoidance is the reduction of public expenses such as Basic Food and medical assistance expenses attributable to the effort of child support enforcement. In SFY 22, the Division of Child Support was responsible for more than \$182 million in avoided assistance expenditures in the following programs:

