

# 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 \$695,311,638 for SFY 20 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.
- Leveraging grants and public-private partnerships to test new methods of communicating with parents such as text messaging and social media.

### 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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Transforming lives

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# Child Support Facts

## Current Support

New ways of working with parents got better results. 67.3% represents over \$481 million in child support collected this last fiscal year, in the month it was due.



66.8%  
FFY 2017  
67.3%  
FFY 2020

## 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 20 the Division of Child Support served over 800,000 clients (monthly average for SFY 20), more than the combined population of Seattle and Kennewick in 2018.

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 are here for all Washington residents at all stages in their life.** Last year, one in six residents benefited from our programs. We help people find the support they need to achieve well-being. People we help range in age from infants who need parentage established to grandparents who need child support to raise their grandchildren.

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 20 the Division of Child Support was responsible for nearly \$156 million in avoided assistance expenditures in the following programs.:

