

Child Support Report

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The 14th National Tribal Child Support Association conference – a time to reflect, celebrate, learn

By Paige Hausburg, Tribal Coordinator
OCSE

More than 320 people attended the National Tribal Child Support Association's (NTCSA) 14th Annual Conference in June—a striking increase since the first conference in 2000 when 30 attended.

As I sat in the audience at the Gila River Indian Community (near Phoenix, AZ) watching the opening flag ceremony by the Pee Posh Veterans of the Gila River Indian Community, I reflected on the progress of this vibrant conference. In 14 years, I've missed only two. (NTCSA held its first conference at the University of Oklahoma where accommodations were sparse; I stayed in a student dormitory with the incoming freshman!)

Welcoming us were representatives from the Gila River Indian Community, NTCSA President Jerry Sweet, the Hashan Kehk Traditional Dancers and Singers, Arizona child support director Todd Bright, Colleen Eubanks of the National Child Support Enforcement Association, Charles Smith of the Western Interstate Child Support Enforcement Council, and Lara Webb Fors of the Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association. Commissioner Turetsky could not attend, but appeared by video.

Thanks to the NTCSA board and planning committee, the conference offered five tracks of engaging and well-run workshops on administration, caseworker best practices, staff development, and legal and judicial issues. In one plenary session, Tallis King George, attorney for the Puyallup tribal program, enlightened us about Native American history. In the other, members of a fathers group gave a heart-felt

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talk about learning to be responsible fathers, through a course by the Native American Fatherhood and Families Association.

This annual conference brings us together to make new friends and reconnect with others. With 56 tribes operating comprehensive programs and 6 in the start-up phase, I'm proud and astounded when I think about the program's evolution! In FY 2012, 45 tribes operating comprehensive programs collected more than \$42 million for children and families.

As the program matures, and tribes and states develop their relationships to work cooperatively, state programs are realizing the benefits of sending child support workers to the conference.

Each year, the NTCSA presents awards to recognize the hard work and special efforts by individuals and agencies to promote tribal child support. This year NTCSA recognized:

- Jerry Sweet with the Lucille Dawson Award for Professional Excellence
- The OCSE Region X staff with the Partnership Award for Professional Excellence—accepted by Nancy Mathieson (*see photo above*)
- Chief Justice Bill Boyum of the Eastern Band of Cherokee with the Judges Award for Professional Excellence (*see story on page 4*)
- Lisa Peck, Oneida Nation, with the President's Award
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians with the Outstanding Tribe Award

The conference also is a time to celebrate tribal differences and learn more about the cultures. At the Cultural History Fair, the tribes showcased their homes



OCSE Region X staff (posing with Office of Grants Management staff) was honored for their work with the tribal support programs at the NTCSA conference in June. Back row, from left: David Johnson, Sheri Harmon (OGM), Nancy Mathieson, John Cheng, Donna Hengeveld, and Sam Stitt (OGM). Front row: Levi Fisher and Patty Fisher (OGM).

through pictures, dance regalia, and traditional artwork and foods. I was personally touched and honored to hear the history of Cherokee Nation and the Trail of Tears.

Next year the conference will return to the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Green Bay, June 7–11, 2015. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Native American population growth

The American Indian and Alaska Native population increased at a faster rate than the U.S. total, according to the 2010 Census. The U.S. population grew by 9.7 percent (from 281.4 million in 2000 to 308.7 million in 2010); the American Indian and Alaska Native population grew by 18 percent—almost twice as fast (from 2.5 million to 2.9 million).



VOICE BLOG

Tribal programs gaining in number and strength

Tribal child support programs are growing by leaps and bounds. With the latest tribe—Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Bayfield, WI—joining us this July, the national child support program now boasts [56 fully comprehensive tribal programs](#) and six more in the start-up phase.

Only 16 years ago, federal legislation created a path for tribal child support programs. Nine comprehensive programs (*listed below*) began their journey up that path, paving the way for the next 47 with more to come. These original nine have collected more than \$160 million since 2001. Comprehensive tribal programs together collected over \$42 million in FY 2012 alone.

These dollars to families are more important than ever. The Pew Research Center [reported](#) in June that Native Americans have a higher poverty rate (26 percent) compared with the national average (15 percent). Unemployment rates for Native Americans also rank higher than the national average.

To help tribes enhance services to tribal families,

we have published a new OCSE competitive grant funding opportunity for comprehensive tribal child support programs. The [Tribal Innovation Grants](#) will help eligible tribes strengthen their innovative, family-centered services, including through partnerships with other programs. Applications are due Aug. 12, with a possible Sept. 1 start.

Our Model Tribal System (MTS) participation is gaining strength, too. Five tribes now operate the system: Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Modoc, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Mille Lacs, and Lac Courte Oreilles. Three more tribes are installing the system: Winnebago, Suquamish, and White Earth. In OCSE we are fine-tuning performance, planning enhancements and modifications, and of course, continuing to roll out the MTS to tribes that request installation.

Our goal is to widen the path further for new tribal programs each year. More tribal child support will mean more parental support for Indian children who need it the most—more money for food, clothing, school supplies, and opportunities to thrive in many ways.

Vicki Turetsky

Nine tribal programs led the way

Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma
Forest County Potawatomi Community, Wisconsin
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Wisconsin
Lummi Nation, Washington
Menominee Tribe, Wisconsin
Navajo Nation, New Mexico
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Washington
Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Washington
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, South Dakota





IN FOCUS

A story of progress for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians child support program

By Jerry Sweet, Executive Director
*Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Child Support Program*

In August 2009, North Carolina, like most states, faced budget cuts that would affect the child support program and many other programs that serve families. These cuts would jeopardize an exceptional partnership between the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and the state of North Carolina. Since 1974, the state had provided child support services to tribal families through EBCI's tribal court. However, tribal cases soon would be split between five counties, creating hardship for some tribal families and even state staff. The split would affect tribal orders because cases involving tribal children appeared before the tribal court judge.

Recognizing the potential hardship, EBCI's Chief Tribal Justice Bill Boyum reached out to state contacts he developed from the NTCSA (National Tribal Child Support Association) conference held in Cherokee, NC, the year before. The judge and North Carolina officials agreed to join the Tribal Child Support Consortium based in Oklahoma.

EBCI's partnership with North Carolina has ensured that the budget cuts did not affect families and services. Thinking outside the box, EBCI found ways to see that all children receive the full benefit of child support services. The process change was seamless thanks to the federal OCSE in both Washington, DC, and the regional

office in Atlanta; North Carolina; the EBCI; and the Tribal Child Support Consortium partnership.

To continue the EBCI program's success, the tribe applied for and received direct funding to operate a child support program. EBCI constantly ranks in the Top 5 child support agencies in North Carolina. Since developing the program, EBCI's collections and cases have increased by 28 percent.

Since operating the program, EBCI entered into yet another partnership with OCSE to test and finalize various components of the Model Tribal System (MTS) working with an IT vendor, Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma, and Forrest County Potawatomi Nation. EBCI designed, developed and tested the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) functionality. Using EFT, EBCI processes funds in a cost-effective, faster and more convenient way.

In addition, EBCI, through its partnership with OCSE, provided assistance to convert cases automatically from state systems to the MTS through the federal CSENet database. EBCI converted close to 1,000 cases from North Carolina's statewide computer system to MTS in less than 20 minutes. EBCI is assisting the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma with converting its cases from Oklahoma's system to the MTS.

Under the leadership of child support director Sandy Cloer and Chief Justice Bill Boyum, EBCI will continue to think outside the box and look for ways to become a leader in the child support program. Its focus will always be: If we identified one child that needs help, then there must be nine more that we are not aware of yet. EBCI will do what it takes to ensure that all children receive the full benefit of the child support program. EBCI is committed to making a difference.

EBCI's focus will always be: If we identified one child that needs help, then there must be nine more that we are not aware of yet.



COORDINATION POINTS

National CSPED demonstration picks up speed

By Lauren Antelo, CSPED Project Officer
OCSE

Have you noticed your child support colleagues talking about CSPED lately? CSPED (*pronounced SEE-spEd*) is not the name of a racing team ... but it is gaining recognition quickly.

CSPED is the Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration, a national five-year demonstration funded through Section 1115 of the Social Security Act. Its goal is to test the efficacy of child support-led employment programs for noncustodial parents who have difficulty meeting their child support obligations. Under Section 1115, OCSE awarded competitive grants in 2012 to eight child support agencies to participate in and implement the components of CSPED. The eight states are California, Colorado, Iowa, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin.

The CSPED project is built on a long history of national employment demonstrations, such as [Parents Fair Share](#) and [Partners for Fragile Families](#). Lessons learned from these and other projects support the CSPED program model, which requires the sites to deliver child support-led programs that provide core services of case management, enhanced child support procedures, employment-oriented services, and fatherhood/parenting activities using peer support. Child support agencies, and partner agencies with competencies in the service areas, provide those services. The sites must also have a domestic violence plan to assess and ensure the safety of participating families.

All eight CSPED projects spent at least 12 months planning and preparing their CSPED designs, and all are now implementing their programs.

... CSPED is also changing the way parents view the child support program ...

What it means for child support agencies

CSPED seeks to create a seamless approach to delivering child support, employment, and parenting services because research shows that programs led by child support agencies have better outcomes. CSPED projects are achieving this in a variety of ways.

First and foremost, partners stay connected through regular meetings and daily conversations about the program and their caseloads. In the initial months, many states reported that they shared basic information with their community partners about the child support program and how it operates. Partners, in turn, shared their experiences delivering employment services to this population, or reflected on the feedback they had received from parents in fatherhood classes about child support. This open dialogue strengthened the teams' ability to provide a cohesive package of services to the CSPED participants.

Many CSPED projects take the team approach a step further through the co-location of partners and child support. In some sites, employment and child support workers sit next to each other, literally requiring only a few steps to get from one service to the next.

Early success stories

CSPED is evaluated through a cooperative agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, in partnership with the [University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty](#) and [Mathematica Policy Research](#). They will conduct an "impact analysis," using the random control trials being conducted in the eight states, as well as implementation and benefit-cost analyses. Evaluators have no immediate results to share, but some CSPED sites are sharing anecdotal evidence of the intervention's success.

In Arapahoe County, CO, an employer was so impressed with an individual placed at his organization, and what the CSPED program had done for this parent, that he donated \$500 to the program. And, through the tireless work of a dedicated job developer in Wisconsin, a national employer is exploring employment options for

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noncustodial parents in other states operating CSPED. These are just a few of the ways the project is spilling out into the community.

CSPED is also changing the way parents view the child support program. On a recent site visit, OCSE staff spoke with a few CSPED participants. They commented on how they previously avoided the child support office or phone calls from their caseworker. In the beginning they even thought CSPED was a set-up, but now they couldn't have been happier that they followed through with the intake. They felt supported and inspired by the staff. They were paying their child support, spending time with their children, and working to get their lives back together.

CSPED is not a panacea. Employment services may not be the right tool for every noncustodial parent in

the child support caseload. However, since CSPED has launched, the project sites report positive effects in their offices and communities. For those parents who are willing but unable to pay, this approach of intensive case management, employment services, and parenting classes with peer support is proving to be an effective child support enforcement tool.

To learn more about CSPED work in the states, see this month's article (below), as well as a [June Child Support Report article](#) ("OCSE promotes child support collaboration with fatherhood programs"), and a [February Child Support Report article](#) ("Success story: Colorado Parent Employment Project raises Jefferson County parent back on his feet"). You can also contact the author at lauren.antelo@acf.hhs.gov.

CSPED at work: **Local news features** **Stanislaus County program** **(PASS it on!)**

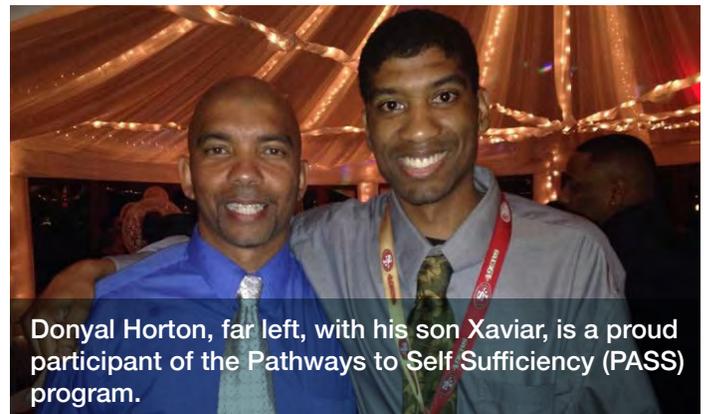
By Lisa Garcia, Manager
Stanislaus County, CA, Department of Child
Support Services

The Modesto Bee, a local newspaper in Modesto, CA (the county seat for Stanislaus County), recently [featured](#) the Pathways to Self Sufficiency (PASS) program. Funded by the Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration, or CSPED (*see previous article*), awarded in 2012 to the Stanislaus County Department of Child Support Services, PASS removes employment barriers for parents who are having difficulty paying their child support. PASS plans to enroll 1,500 participants, with 750 in the treatment group and 750 in the control group. It selects participants for the two groups by random assignment.

A personal experience

Donyal Horton of Modesto agreed to participate in the project and was randomly assigned to the treatment group. He receives employment services and enhanced child support services, and participates in parenting activities. Horton is working with a workforce consultant from Alliance WorkNet of Stanislaus County who dedicates his time solely to the treatment group participants. The employment services include job readiness training, job placement services, on the job training, and job retention services.

Horton also attends weekly fatherhood classes through the Center for Human Services (CHS). The "On My



Donyal Horton, far left, with his son Xaviar, is a proud participant of the Pathways to Self Sufficiency (PASS) program.

Shoulders" parenting curriculum encourages discussion and interaction, and practical exercises encourage engagement among the attendees, which leads to peer-to-peer support. Horton has shared positive feedback about the parenting classes.

The enhanced child support services Horton is eligible to receive include suspended enforcement actions, immediate release of driver and professional licenses, expedited modification, if needed, and referrals to other agencies as needed.

Horton has shared that he is proud to be a part of this program and the change it is expected to bring. He now participates in peer education and orientation sessions that highlight his personal experience with PASS. At a recent PASS orientation with potential participants, Horton shared his experiences and said, "Whatever you thought about the child support program, throw that away, they are truly here to help."

PASS will enroll participants through Sept. 30, 2016, or until it enrolls 1,500 participants. The program's ultimate goal is to increase reliable child support payments among unemployed or underemployed noncustodial parents, thereby improving child wellbeing and avoiding public costs.

Contact lgarcia@stancodcss.org with any questions.

Response ‘all positive’ to Nebraska’s new electronic cash-payment option

By Jana Langemach, Director of Communications
Nebraska State Treasurer’s Office

More than 30 child support payments went through PayNearMe in the first week of a new partnership between the Nebraska Child Support Payment Center and the electronic cash transaction network.

While this initial number of PayNearMe payments may be small compared to the total payments received regularly at the child support payment center, a division of the Nebraska State Treasurer’s Office, Director Troy Reiners says he couldn’t be happier with the first-week response.

“The response has been all positive,” Reiners said, noting the implementation went off without a hitch. “It is a positive move when we can provide noncustodial parents the ability to get cash payments to us quickly and efficiently. It reduces the likelihood of enforcement actions taken against them, and children in these families receive the money they need and deserve without interruptions or delays.”

Reiners points out, for example, that noncustodial father Craig, an over-the-road trucker, wouldn’t be able to drive his truck if he didn’t have his driver’s license—one possible enforcement action—and would fall behind on his child support obligation. Enforcement actions also take time, require the involvement of caseworkers

A postcard (below) and poster promote the Nebraska Child Support Payment Center’s cash payment option

and others, and necessitate court appearances, further delaying payments to the children, Reiners said.

By making it easier for noncustodial parents who pay by cash to make payments, the Nebraska Child Support Payment Center hopes to increase the number of parents who fulfill their child support obligations and, at the same time, reduce administrative costs by decreasing the number of paper checks and money orders that workers process.

Nebraska is the first state to offer PayNearMe’s electronic cash-payment option for noncustodial parents making child support payments and, as such, has started fielding calls from other state payment centers interested in the innovative approach.

The new service makes it possible for noncustodial parents to pay child support with cash at more than 17,000 participating locations nationwide. Among these locations are 7-Eleven, Family Dollar, and ACE Cash Express stores. Many of these locations are open 24/7.

“The addition of this new electronic cash payment option is part of our ongoing effort to improve efficiency and make the child support payment system easier for all,” said Nebraska State Treasurer Don Stenberg.

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PayNearMe
Simple. Convenient. Secure.

Pay your child support with CASH

at a 7-Eleven, Family Dollar, or ACE Cash Express location near you.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS -

- Request a PayNearMe Card online or get a PayNearMe Card at a payment location, and tell the cashier you'd like to make a CASH payment.
- Give your PayNearMe Card or PayPal to the cashier for scanning, and proceed to pay with cash.
- Save your receipt as confirmation of your payment, which will be posted the next business day.

7-Eleven | FAMILY DOLLAR | ACE CASH EXPRESS

To find a payment location near you, visit www.paynearme.com/locations

NebraskaChildSupport.com
Official Nebraska Government Website
A Division of the Nebraska State Treasurer's Office

PayNearMe
Simple. Convenient. Secure.

Tired of waiting in line?

Now you can quickly and easily make child support payments at a 7-Eleven, Family Dollar, or ACE Cash Express store right in your own neighborhood. Ask us how to get started.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS -

- Bring your PayNearMe Card or PayPal to a payment location, and tell the cashier you'd like to make a CASH payment.
- Give your PayNearMe Card or PayPal to the cashier for scanning, and proceed to pay with cash.
- Save your receipt as confirmation of your payment, which will be posted the next business day.

7-Eleven | FAMILY DOLLAR | ACE CASH EXPRESS

To find a payment location near you, visit www.paynearme.com/locations

NebraskaChildSupport.com
Official Nebraska Government Website
A Division of the Nebraska State Treasurer's Office

“This new service not only makes cash payments more convenient for parents, it also reduces our administrative costs. The electronic cash payment option is a significant development for families and for Nebraska.”

Nebraska, recognized nationally for its use of electronic payment methods, is ranked third in the nation for the percent of child support payments received electronically and is in the top 10 states for the percent of payments made to custodial parents electronically. Seventy-six percent of Nebraska’s child support payments are received electronically, while 97 percent of payments to custodial parents are made electronically.

The Nebraska Child Support Payment Center receives payments from more than 52,000 noncustodial parents or their employers. While 85 percent of the payments made to the Nebraska Child Support Payment Center are by employers on behalf of their employees, a significant number of noncustodial parents still pay on their own and have no other choice than cash or money orders because their past financial histories prevent them from securing checking accounts, debit cards, or credit cards.

With PayNearMe, noncustodial parents who choose to pay their child support with cash are able to complete their transactions in less than a minute at cashiers’ counters in participating stores. To make a payment, a parent goes to the [Nebraska Child Support Center](#) website. From there the parent prints a payment code

or sends it to a mobile phone and then takes it to a participating payment location where the cashier scans the code and accepts the cash payment. A small fee of \$3.99 is charged.

The Child Support Payment Center receives instant notification of a payment, and the noncustodial parent’s online payment record updates automatically.

Before the PayNearMe option, noncustodial parents could only make cash payments at the walk-up customer service window of the Child Support Payment Center in Lincoln. Or, they could purchase money orders, which they then mailed, sent by overnight delivery, or sometimes dropped off at county offices closer to their homes. The county offices then forwarded the money orders to the Child Support Payment Center.

“To fully serve the families in Nebraska, we needed another, more efficient and convenient, option,” Reiners said. “What better way to help them than by offering many payment locations spread across Nebraska and the United States? PayNearMe turns cash into an electronic payment, which saves us time for data entry, reduces the likelihood of errors, and allows us to be more efficient.”

For more information, contact Troy Reiners, director of the Nebraska Child Support Payment Center, at troy.reiners@nebraska.gov or 402-471-8444, or the author at jana.langemach@nebraska.gov or 402-471-8884.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Teen birthrate drops again ... A May [CDC Vital Statistics report](#) shows that teen childbearing fell last year to 26.6 births per 1,000 females age 15 to 19, the lowest on record. This is good news, according to [Child Trends](#), because children and the teen mothers have a higher risk of living in poverty, with associated outcomes.

Research on payment compliance ... New research from the University of Maryland School of Social Work shows that imputing income results in low payment compliance. Noncustodial parents are significantly more likely to comply—and comply fully—with support orders when the amount is in line with their ability to pay. [Download the reports.](#)

For children of incarcerated parents ... Many federal agencies have collaborated to compile resources to assist children of incarcerated parents. Visit [Children of Incarcerated Parents](#) on the Find Youth Info website to learn more.

Mental health benefits for veterans ... Many veterans who are homeless have some sort of mental illness, commonly PTSD or Traumatic Brain Injury. New TRICARE benefits increase access to qualified counselors who may help military members prevent future mental health issues. See TRICARE’s [Benefit Updates](#) web page.

FPLS employer reporting tool ... The Federal Parent Locator Service has a new application for employers on the Child Support Services Portal (CSSP). Through the [Employer Services Web App](#), employers can report upcoming lump sum payments (formerly called Debt Inquiry Service) and employment terminations.

Service member honors his Alabama child support supervisor with DoD's Patriot Award

By Kim Danek, Writer/Editor
OCSE

If this were a normal “civilian” day, Drew Hill would be working in the Child Support Office of the Lee County Department of Human Resources (DHS) in Opelika, AL. However, today, and for the next several months, he is Capt. James “Drew” Hill, Commander, Forward Support Company, 877TH Engineer Battalion of the Alabama Army National Guard—and he is stationed in Afghanistan.

When Reservists or Guardsmen deploy, they often leave a void in a civilian job. That’s the case with Lee County DHS. “Our state does not have the necessary resources to backfill those positions and thus creates a greater workload on those left behind,” wrote Capt. Hill in a recent email to OCSE.

Hill’s supervisor before his deployment, Lillian Snipes, is the DHS child support unit supervisor. Hill said Snipes gave him time to take care of military business before he left, made sure others in the office were trained on his tasks, and redistributed his workload to herself and others in the office. Hill felt she was instrumental in helping him prepare himself, his family, and his unit for deployment. “As a supervisor in the military I know of the difficulties and burdens that come with that responsibility and was very appreciative of the respect and flexibility that Mrs. Snipes displayed.”

Snipes said, “Drew is a person who is easy to work with. Once he told me everything he needed to do, we just made it happen. He’s a good coworker so the others didn’t hesitate to help him out as well.”

Hill wanted to make sure Snipes knew how much her support meant to him, so he nominated her for an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) “Patriot Award.” According to the ESGR website, the Department of Defense established the support program in 1972 “to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee’s military commitment.” The Patriot Award gives service members a way to recognize an individual civilian supervisor who has been instrumental in helping them prepare for deployments.



Captain James “Drew” Hill with his wife, Tammie



Child support supervisor Lillian Snipes accepting the Patriot Award from DoD liaison Wendell McLain

“Just like in the military we like to recognize outstanding soldiers for their achievements by presenting coins or awards,” said Hill. “Through ESGR Patriot Award, I found the opportunity to recognize Mrs. Snipes for her continual support of me prior to and during my deployment and wanted to take the opportunity to do so.”

Snipes did not feel like what she or the office did was a big deal. “When he first told us about his deployment, we knew it would be difficult, but we knew that he needed to be able to get his head around the deployment and everything,” she said. “I wanted to make sure that we minimized his stress. We would have done that for any employee.”

The day Snipes received the award from Wendell McLain, a liaison from the Alabama State ESGR office, she was dumbfounded. “I am thrilled. I hadn’t heard about it until he got here. I am very appreciative.”

The office has sent Capt. Hill a care package and hopes to keep in close touch while he is gone, which they believe will be until April 2015.

The changing face of military pay

People with steady, full time jobs don't see much deviation in their paychecks, but that's not always the case for military members. The base monthly pay usually holds steady, but other entitlements and allowances can vary widely.

For example, a military member who has a family and is authorized to live outside of a military installation generally receives a monthly housing allowance based on the geographic location of the installation and the cost of living in the area. If that soldier moves to an area where the cost of living is higher, the housing allowance generally increases, but the allowance could drop if he moves to an area where living costs are lower. If the family moves onto a military installation, the housing allowance generally goes away completely.

Periodically, the Department of Defense (DoD) reviews military pay entitlements and adjusts benefits based on costs of living changes and other considerations. This June, for example, DoD changed the rules for military members who receive an entitlement called Imminent Danger Pay, or IDP. Members serving in areas that DoD believes are particularly hostile, such as Iran and Iraq, may receive up to \$225 per month in IDP.

According to a May article on the [Stars and Stripes](#) website, DoD officials removed 22 locations from the IDP list effective June 1. The change could affect up to 44,000 service members.

What can child support agencies do?

When agencies review military pay to determine child support, it is good to understand the different types of military compensation and which ones may be more likely to fluctuate. Caseworkers may also find military support regulations helpful. These documents outline the minimum payment each service says its members must provide to dependents that do not live with them.

The Office of Child Support Enforcement offers two documents that can explain military pay, both available through the [OCSE Military & Veterans web page](#). See Chapter IV, Support Establishment, in the "Handbook for Military Families" or Module 5-4 of "Working with the Military on Child Support Matters: Trainer Guide."

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) website also has examples of each service's Leave and Earnings Statement on the [Understanding Your Pay](#) page.

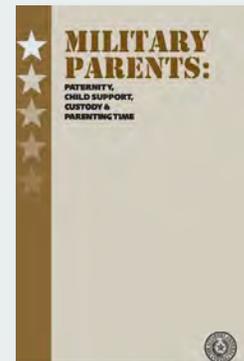


Finally, according to a May 14 [DFAS press release](#), later this year, "Soldiers and Airmen will receive annual Personal Statements of Military Compensation that combines [sic] pay with benefits values to more accurately show what military service is worth." This document may also help child support organizations calculate payment amounts.

—Kim Danek, OCSE

Two states offer child support publications for military parents

Texas designed a checklist titled [Military Parents: Paternity, Child Support, Custody & Parenting Time](#)



Washington State and the Department of Veterans Affairs developed a [child support brochure for veterans](#)

Child Support Report

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