



ERICSA 2014: *TAKING FLIGHT*  
*for Children and Families*



# Early learning from CSPED



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# Goals



**CSPED**

- ❖ Provide an overview of the National Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED)
- ❖ Share early lessons from the first two years of the national demonstration



# CSPED

- ❖ OCSE-funded national demonstration focused on child support payment/outcomes
- ❖ Builds on long history of national employment demonstrations
  - Parents' Fair Share (1994-1996)
  - OCSE Responsible Fatherhood (1998-2000)
  - Partners for Fragile Families (2000-2003)
  - Welfare-to-Work funded programs (1998-2004)
  - Fathers at Work Demonstration (2003-2007)



# CSPED

- ❖ September 2012, OCSE awarded competitive grants to 8 states:
  - California, Colorado, Iowa, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin
- ❖ Cross-site evaluation includes impact, implementation and benefit/cost analysis
  - WI Department of Children and Families, and led by UW Institute for Research on Poverty and Mathematica Policy Research



# Key Elements

- ❖ Child support-led;
- ❖ Core services:
  - Case management;
  - Enhanced child support procedures;
  - Employment-oriented services; and
  - Fatherhood/Parenting Activities using peer support.
- ❖ Grantees partner with other agencies that have core competencies in specific service areas; and
- ❖ A domestic violence plan



# What does it mean to be child support led?

- ❖ Not just a referral
- ❖ Program is outcome-driven and others are accountable to child support
- ❖ Child support is the leader, *the glue*

**Research shows programs led by child support have better outcomes.**



# Case management

- ❖ Critical component provided by child support and employment partners:
  - Develop service plans
  - Provide individualized assistance
  - Monitor participation and progress with ongoing follow-up



# Enhanced child support services

- ❖ Education on the child support program
- ❖ Expedited review and, if appropriate, adjustment of orders
- ❖ Arrears management
- ❖ Temporary lifting of enforcement actions and reinstating if and when appropriate



# Employment services

- ❖ Job search assistance
- ❖ Job readiness training
- ❖ Job placement services
- ❖ Skills training
- ❖ GED prep
- ❖ Employment retention services, including rapid re-employment following job loss





# Fatherhood/parenting using peer support

- ❖ Field-tested curricula approved by OCSE
  - Adapted for population
  - Financial literacy
  - Modified to include child support and domestic violence components
- ❖ Connects employment to fatherhood and parenting, as well as child support



**Research shows it increases child support payments, even more than employment services alone.**



# Partnerships



- ❖ Child support is the lead and maintains focus on child support outcomes
- ❖ Partners focus on core competencies
- ❖ Presented as single package of services
- ❖ Education and communication is key



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# Beyond the grant

- ❖ Shift in culture and perception
  - Community
  - Child support
- ❖ Use grant funds to leverage additional resources
  - Noncustodial parents prioritized for available slots
  - Able to address multiple barriers, such as criminal backgrounds and substance abuse



# Another tool in the toolkit

- ❖ Traditional enforcement mechanisms *don't* result in reliable child support payments in all cases.
  - Especially for the un- and underemployed.
- ❖ *Different* approach for a segment of the caseload.
  - More upfront work that “pays off.”
  - Using caseload stratification or segmentation.



# Success stories

- ❖ “We’ve moved from a heavy hand to helping hand.”
- ❖ “Parents are proactively calling me and checking in.”
- ❖ “It just makes sense that we are working together. We have the same goal in mind.”



# Success stories

“His employer thought so much about the impact that we have on citizen’s lives that the employer donated a “Pay it Forward” donation of \$500 to CO-PEP so we would be able to help another person in similar circumstances.” (Colorado)



# Success stories

“The SPSK program... gave me guidance, kindness and hope. The SPSK program empowered me and pushed me towards positivity in my outlook of the future....”

(WI parent)





# Success stories

“I felt down, no energy, depressed, and overwhelmed. I didn’t know where to start or what to do. I met Faith, and she helped me by giving me wings to fly.” (CO parent)





# Thank you!

For more information, please contact:  
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