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As the Commissioner of the Child Support Program, it is my responsibility to oversee the operations and performance of state, territorial, and tribal child support programs. In FY 2015, there were 54 state and territorial child support programs and 62 tribal child support programs. I am pleased to present the 36th Annual Report to Congress on the Child Support Program, providing the program’s status and highlighting its accomplishments during FY 2015.

FY 2015 marked the 40th anniversary of the Child Support program. Established in 1975, the Child Support Program has evolved over the decades. The program has shifted its primary mission from welfare cost recovery to family support. This shift reflects legislation passed by Congress in 1996 and 2006 to authorize family distribution of support collections. To boost child support payments, the program uses a variety of early intervention strategies that complement traditional enforcement methods, including strategies to increase the involvement of parents in their children’s lives. The program has become more successful in helping parents work together to support their children. State and local child support agencies engage in outreach, referral, case management and other activities in partnership with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), child welfare, workforce, veterans, fatherhood, domestic violence, and prisoner reentry programs to increase the ability and willingness of parents to support their children. As states and tribes have begun to implement these strategies on a broader scale, the current collection rate—which measures regular payments—is showing a steady rise after several years of flat performance. In fact, we haven’t seen a similar rise in the current collection rate since the early 2000s.

I am proud of the Child Support Program’s achievements in FY 2015. The program provided child support services and collected over $28.6 billion for 16 million children in its caseload through the program funded under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. This includes $50 million in tribal child support collections, reflecting the growth of the tribal IV-D child support program. In addition, states collected and distributed to entitled families almost $4 billion in payments made through income withholding orders for child support cases that did not receive child support services. In total, $32.4 billion in child support was collected in FY 2015, providing support to families in a timely manner to reduce child poverty and promote family self-sufficiency. Paternity and support order establishment, current collection, and arrears collection rates have never been stronger, while cost-effectiveness remains high at $5.26 collected for every dollar spent on the program. Indeed, FY 2015 represents a new high water mark in child support performance.

Vicki Turetsky
The Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) is part of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). HHS is the principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. ACF’s mission is to foster health and well-being by providing federal leadership, partnership and resources for the compassionate and effective delivery of human services. The ultimate ACF vision is that children, youth, families, individuals and communities are resilient, safe, healthy and economically secure.

Child support makes a big difference to children and families

Child support is an important income source for families. According to a 2014 U.S. Bureau of Census survey, child support represents 41 percent of family income for poor families with income below the poverty level who receive child support.

Research has shown that a dollar of child support income has a greater effect on how well a child does in school than do other sources of family income.¹

In recent years, the program has shifted its focus from welfare cost reimbursement to family support, with an emphasis on obtaining regular support for children and removing barriers to consistent payment. The national Child Support Program is one of the largest income support programs for families, contributing money to family budgets to help pay for the basics—shelter, food, child care, transportation, and school clothes.

The Child Support Program is a federal/state/tribal/local partnership that operates under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act with the vision that children can count on their parents for the financial, medical, and emotional support they need to be healthy and successful even when they live in different households. The program functions in 54 states and territories, and 62 tribes. The national Child Support Program assures that assistance in obtaining support is available to children through locating parents, establishing paternity, establishing and modifying support obligations, and monitoring and enforcing these obligations.

The OCSE Annual Report to Congress highlights financial and statistical child support achievements based on data reported by state and tribal child support agencies. The content of the Annual Report is mandated by section 452(a) under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act to give Congressional members information that relates to the overall operations and success of the national child support program.


In FY 2015, OCSE worked collaboratively with state and tribal programs, and a variety of public and private partners to engage parents in the lives of their children, increase the economic stability of both parents, strengthen family relationships, secure health care coverage, and prevent family violence. These strategies contributed to improvements in program performance and payments for children, and provided help to parents struggling to support their families.

The Child Support Program made solid progress in its mission to increase family self-sufficiency and meet the needs of children and their families during FY 2015. These accomplishments are discussed further in the Highlights section of the report and supported by the data in the state and tribal program performance sections and the tables in the Appendix.
HIGHLIGHTS

of the year
ACHIEVEMENTS

In FY 2015, OCSE promoted effective approaches and excellent customer service to achieve the program goal of ensuring that children can count on receiving consistent financial support from their parents living apart from them. OCSE, states, and tribes identified evidence-based strategies, including setting accurate orders to improve payment compliance rates and intervening early when payments stop. OCSE emphasized to states and territories the need for technology modernization and employer outreach to increase income withholding and new hire reporting compliance. OCSE also emphasized the importance of partnering with private and public programs that nurture healthy relationships between both parents and their children, and employment programs that can increase the capacity of low-skilled parents to earn and provide child support.

STATE PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

The Child Support Program measures its successes in helping families become self-sufficient through a variety of outcome-based measures. This section describes the statistical performance of the national, state and tribal programs.

Performance-Based Incentives and Penalties

The Child Support Program has a strong outcome-based performance management system established by the Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998 (CSPIA). Under CSPIA, states are measured in five program areas: paternity establishment, support order establishment, current support collected, cases paying towards arrears and cost effectiveness. This performance-based incentive and penalty program is used to reward states for good or improved performance and to impose penalties when state performance falls below a specified level and has not improved. Performance data maintained by states are regularly audited for completeness and reliability. Penalties are assessed when a state’s measured level of performance in paternity establishment, support orders established or current support collected falls below the specified level, or when a state’s data used to compute incentive measures are found to be incomplete or unreliable, or when a state is found to be non-compliant with certain federal child support requirements.

From FY 2014 to FY 2015, the IV-D caseload paternity establishment percentage remained at 100 percent, while the statewide rate was 95 percent compared to 96 percent in 2014.
**FY 2015 Performance Highlights**

$32.4 billion in child support collections

**Federal Performance Measures:**
- **Paternity Establishment Percentage:**
  - Statewide Paternity 95%
  - IV-D Paternity 100%
- Cases with Orders: 86%
- Current Collections: 65%
- Arrearage Cases: 64%
- Cost Effectiveness: $5.26

**Total Expenditures:**
- $5.7 billion ($3.5 billion in federal funds and $2.3 billion in state funds).

Over this same period, the percent of cases with support orders established increased from 85 percent to 86 percent, the current support collection rate increased from 64 percent to 65 percent and the proportion of cases paying towards arrears increased from 63 percent to 64 percent. Cost effectiveness increased from $5.25 to $5.26 in FY 2015. Together, these performance rates represent an all time high for the Child Support Program.

**AUDIT AND DATA RELIABILITY AUDITS**

Child support performance data are audited to ensure that they are reliable. Congress mandates OCSE to conduct annual data reliability audits and reviews to evaluate data completeness, accuracy, security and reliability of the data reported and produced by state reporting systems. These data reliability audits, performed by the OCSE Office of Audit, help ensure that incentives are earned and paid on the basis of verifiable data only and that the incentive payment system is fair and equitable. In FY 2015, data from states and territories for FY 2014 was audited. 53 states and territories passed their data reliability audits. One state/territory failed the audits for FY 2014. One state/territory received a penalty letter for having two consecutive failures. One state/territory that failed the audit for FY 2013 received a congratulatory letter for reporting complete and reliable data in FY 2014.

**COST AUDITS**

OCSE is required by Section 452(a)(4)(C)(ii) of the Social Security Act to evaluate the adequacy of the financial management of each state’s child support program. Specifically, OCSE is mandated to perform reviews of expenditures claimed by states for federal reimbursement. The primary objectives of such a cost audit are to determine whether the claimed child support costs are allowable, allocable, and reasonable, and to ensure that states bear their fair share of child support costs. Financial audits are performed after the Data Reliability Audits (DRA) are completed, to the extent that resources permit, before beginning the next fiscal year’s DRAs. For FY 2015, the OCSE Office of Audit recommended disallowance for approximately $20 thousand of unallowable costs claimed.

**FEDERAL SYSTEMS**

In 1996, Congress established the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) as a new component of the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS), to help state child support agencies locate parents and enforce child support orders. Child support cases are matched daily against the NDNH to identify employers of parents owing child support so states can issue an income withholding order.

**$3.9 Billion**

The amount of collections attributable to federal systems in FY 2015, which represents 12 percent of total child support collections of $32.4 billion.
OCSE operates two other major databases supporting child support agencies' business processes: the Federal Case Registry (FCR) of Child Support Orders, containing case and participant information from 54 states and territories, and the Child Support Debtor File, which contains data certified by states regarding the amount of past-due child support owed by noncustodial parents.

In FY 2015, Federal Systems activities included:

- NDNH data matches resulted in $761 million in child support collections through income withholding orders sent by state child support agencies to employers
- The Federal Offset Program collected $1.9 billion in past-due child support by using the Child Support Debtor File
- Collections of $209 million were attributed to data matches with Department of State to deny passport renewals for those past due in child support, and with financial institutions and insurance companies
- Over $1 billion was collected through a partnership with the Social Security Administration to garnish the benefits of recipients with past-due child support balances

To enforce interstate child support cases, FPLS and state child support data systems are interoperable, exchanging data daily through batch processing and a web-based interactive portal that allows for case information and document exchange.

Federal Systems Benefit to Cost Ratio: 175:1

The return on investment for OCSE’s federal systems is calculated as the total amount of child support collections directly attributable to the systems compared to every dollar invested in them.

In FY 2015, total costs for federal systems were $22.2 million resulting in a benefit-to-cost ratio of 175:1.

While Congress established the FPLS for the purpose of helping state child support agencies locate parents and enforce child support orders, over time Congress has authorized certain state and federal agencies to receive information from the NDNH for specific purposes, primarily to reduce improper payments from needs-based public benefit programs. These authorized agencies include: the Social Security Administration, the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury’s Bureau of the Fiscal Service (BFS, formerly Financial Management Service), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the Child Welfare Program. Congress also has authorized FPLS data matching for limited research purposes.
Results from these data matches include:

- BFS recovered approximately $62 million in federal non-tax debt and $12 million in payment agreement collections
- IRS recovered almost $488 million in additional taxes owed
- HUD estimates the subsidy error for their rental assistance programs to be as much as $419 million

**STATE AND TRIBAL SYSTEMS**

In FY 2015, a few states continued to try to replace or enhance their legacy statewide automated case management computer systems built on aging technology. In nearly all states, the systems are obsolete, and in some states, the systems are close to the end of their usable lives. However, state budget constraints continue to delay most enhancement and replacement efforts. Despite these challenges, some states and territories are beginning to conduct planning and feasibility studies to examine a path forward for replacement of their systems. In FY 2015, the states that were in development included Delaware, Massachusetts, and New York, while other states like Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and one territory, Guam were looking into conducting a feasibility study to replace their aging systems.

To reduce the federal costs of automating tribal programs, OCSE completed development and testing in FY 2013 and announced the availability of the Model Tribal System (MTS). The MTS, a comprehensive, highly configurable child support system was designed collaboratively by tribes. It was built by OCSE for all tribal programs. Nine tribes—the Modoc Tribe, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Lac Courte Orielles, White Earth Nation, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Suquamish, Prairie Band of Potawatomi Indians, and the Eastern Shoshone—had completed full installation of the MTS.

Other significant work with state and tribal systems included the continued management of the National Information Exchange Model’s (NIEM) Human Services Domain on behalf of the Department and the Administration for Children and Families Interoperability Initiative. This included collaborative, interdisciplinary information technology projects designed to promote horizontal integration, facilitate shared services, and improve the exchange of data across systems supporting health and human services programs. Some of these projects included development and publication of the National Human Services Interoperability Architecture, and the ACF Confidentiality Toolkit. Version 3 of the Cost Allocation Methodology Toolkit was rolled out in FY 2015. During FY 2015 OCSE also worked on rewriting the State Systems Certification Guide that provides requirements for all existing and new state child support systems.

**COMPETITIVE GRANTS AND INITIATIVES**

OCSE awards competitive grants under two sections of the Social Security Act. Section 1115(a), authorizes OCSE to fund research and demonstration grants to promote Title IV-D purposes with a goal of improving the operation of the child support program.

Section 452(j), authorizes OCSE to fund projects that support information dissemination and technical assistance to states, training of state and federal staff, staffing studies, and related activities, as well as research, demonstration, and special projects of regional or national significance relating to the operation of IV-D programs.

FY 2015 was the first year of funding for eight new Section 1115(a) grants. OCSE awarded Behavioral Interventions for Child Support Services (BICS) funding to state child support agencies, to develop interventions and process redesigns that are informed by behavioral science, and aim to increase parental engagement and regular support payments. A ninth grant was funded to evaluate the eight demonstration programs. The evaluation
grant supports a rigorous national cross-site evaluation. The demonstration sites began designing their interventions, aiming to improve the processes of serving notice, setting support amounts, and commencing timely payments. The FY 2015 grant funds for the demonstration and evaluation projects totaled $2.8 million.

OCSE awarded FY 2015 continuation funding to recipients of the Section 1115(a) National Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration grant program (CSPED). CSPED is a five-year project initially awarded in FY 2012. OCSE plans to award continuation funding through FY 2016. The total FY 2015 grant funds for the demonstration and evaluation totaled $1.2 million.

CSPED funds eight grants to state child support agencies to develop and implement programs that provide employment services to noncustodial parents in the child support system, and a ninth grant to evaluate the eight demonstration service sites. These child support-led CSPED programs include the following components: 1) case management; 2) employment-oriented services that include job placement and retention services; 3) fatherhood/parenting activities using peer support; and 4) enhanced child support services that include review and appropriate adjustment of child support orders and programs to reduce child support debt owed to the state. The CSPED Evaluation consists of three parts: an impact evaluation, an implementation evaluation, and a cost-benefit analysis.

OCSE awarded continuation funding to recipients of the Section 452(j) Parenting Time Opportunities for Children in the Child Support Program (PTOC). The five PTOC grants are part of a four-year national pilot project initially awarded in FY 2012, and OCSE awarded continuation funding through FY 2015. The total FY 2015 continuation grant funds totaled $500,000.

The PTOC grants fund state and county projects to develop, implement, and report on their family violence safeguards and evaluate procedures to establish parenting time orders with new child support orders for parents who were never married. The goal is to learn more about how the child support program can safely and effectively give families opportunities to establish parenting time orders. It is expected that encouraging parenting time agreements in conjunction with support order establishment between the parents will facilitate opportunities for both parents to spend time with their child, with the objectives of improving overall child well-being and related child support outcomes. Family violence safeguards and protocols are a critical part of this pilot program, and all grantees have an on-site family violence coordinator and an OCSE-approved family violence plan.

**Access and Visitation**

OCSE administers grants to states for the Access and Visitation Program, authorized by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) under 42 U.S.C. 699(b). PRWORA appropriates $10 million each year to the states and territories for the Access and Visitation Program. Annually each state receives a portion of the $10 million federal appropriation according to calculations based on the formula stated in the program statute, and must contribute 10 percent of the total program costs through state match.
$10 Million
The amount appropriated each year to be allocated among states for Access and Visitation programs.

The statutory goal of the program is to enable states to establish and administer programs to support and facilitate noncustodial parents’ access to and visitation of their children by means of activities including mediation (both voluntary and mandatory), counseling, education, development of parenting plans, visitation enforcement (including monitoring, supervision, and neutral drop-off and pick-up), and development of guidelines for visitation and alternative custody arrangements. A number of states use their access and visitation grant funds to support supervised visitation services for children placed in foster care. OCSE requires all grantees to strengthen and report on their family violence safeguards.

**OCSE Program Partnerships**

Program partnerships are critical to fulfilling OCSE’s goal of improving child support outcomes for all children. Partnerships are a particularly effective way to increase the consistency of child support payments in those cases where there are barriers to payment, by addressing the underlying reasons parents are not paying their obligations, such as unemployment, incarceration, parental conflict, lack of access to the children, or disengagement. Examples of FY 2015 partnerships included:

- Partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve employment prospects and to reduce homelessness among veterans;
- Participated in the Federal Interagency Reentry Council Workgroup to promote the successful reentry of formerly incarcerated parents;
- Partnered with the Office of Family Assistance on their Responsible Fatherhood grants to facilitate local child support collaborations and improve services and outcome for participating fathers which may include increased access to and parenting time with their children;
- Participated in the Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable (LAIR) to increase access to justice by low-income people. This federal initiative promotes best practices and policies within federal and state agencies by increasing the availability of legal assistance across the range of civil and criminal issues including child support and visitation/custody issues. LAIR member agencies may better achieve their goals of self-sufficiency, safety, and social well-being if legal aid resources are considered among the available services;
- Partnered with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to support local collaboration and referral between the programs to increase employment and training services to parents in the child support caseload; and
- Partnered with CMS to examine enhancements to the process of post-eligibility referral to the child support agency, to ensure appropriate and timely delivery of child support services. Further, this partnership began analyzing the merits and limitations of expanded data sharing.

**POLICIES**

**International Child Support Program**

Section 459A of the Social Security Act authorizes the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to declare foreign countries or their political subdivisions to be reciprocating countries for child support enforcement. OCSE serves as the U.S. Central Authority for international child support and works closely with state child support agencies and our foreign reciprocating partners to provide child support services to
families in international cases. The United States has designated 14 countries and 12 Canadian provinces and territories as foreign reciprocating countries for child support purposes. As the U.S. Central Authority for international child support, OCSE works closely with 26 foreign reciprocating countries and state child support agencies to process international child support cases. In 2015, OCSE provided training on international case processing and participated in meetings with key international partners, including Canada, Germany, Australia, and England and Wales. OCSE enhanced its international webpage by developing a web-inquiry form that allows users to contact the international team directly for international case processing advice and technical assistance. Overall, OCSE responded to over 700 customer service inquiries on international child support from families, states, and foreign countries.

In 2015, OCSE convened a state and federal Intergovernmental Forms Work Group to revise and update the intergovernmental forms. The work group reviewed comments on the previous set of intergovernmental forms and identified critical areas for revision, including incorporating advances in technology and communication, protecting personal identifiable information especially in domestic violence cases, and reflecting changing family structures, such as same sex couples.

As a result, the group made substantial revisions to many of the forms and created three new ones. The forms are currently under review, according to Paperwork Reduction Act procedures, which will include further opportunity for public comment. OCSE anticipates publishing final intergovernmental forms in 2016.

The Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance (Hague Convention) promotes the enforcement of child support obligations in cases where the custodial parent and child are in one country and the noncustodial parent is in another. The main advantage to the U.S. of joining this Convention is that more children living in the United States will receive the financial support of both their parents, even if the parents live outside the country. The Convention provides for a comprehensive system of cooperation between the child support authorities of contracting states, establishes procedures for recognition of foreign child support decisions, and requires effective measures for prompt enforcement of such decisions.

In 2014, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, Public Law (P.L.) 113-183, authorized U.S. ratification of the Hague Convention and required states and territories participating in the federal child support program to enact the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA 2008) in the next legislative session. During FY 2015, all 54 states and territories introduced legislation to do so and 50 states and territories completed enactment of UIFSA 2008. The remaining 4 states and territories were still in legislative session and on target to enact UIFSA 2008 in FY 2016.

In preparation for implementing the Hague Convention, OCSE completed the U.S. country profile, a document which describes U.S. child support laws and procedures. For the country profile, OCSE added new information to the Intergovernmental Reference Guide that address state-specific child support information.

State Plan

As a condition of receiving federal financial participation, state child support agencies must have an approved state plan describing the nature and scope of their child support program, which meets all federal requirements. The state plan consists of the preprinted state plan pages and any related attachments and contains all information necessary for OCSE to determine whether a state plan can be approved. Sections 454 and 466 of the Social Security Act set forth the requirements for submission of a state plan and plan amendments for the child support program.

From October 2014 to April 2015, OCSE worked to make the submission, review, and retention of state plans more efficient. OCSE issued AT-15-02 to provide notice of the new online state plan system and the automated state plan submission and review process. Effective May 1, 2015, the 54 states and territories that operate IV-D child support programs view their state plan and submit plan amendments, attachments and supporting documents via the online state plan system. Additionally, OCSE regional and central office staff use the online state plan system to review and approve plan amendments, attachments, and supporting documents. The online state plan system is located on a secure internet portal managed by OCSE.

CUSTOMER COMMUNICATIONS

During FY 2015, OCSE’s Division of Customer Communications managed key OCSE communications. Parents, program partners, and child support professionals could easily find information about the Child Support Program through our OCSE website (http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css) and social media outlets. Customers also learned about OCSE, state, local, and tribal initiatives promoting the well-being of children and families in our monthly e-newsletter, the Child Support Report. Using OCSE’s Customer Inquiry Management system, the division timely responded to thousands of customer inquiries from parents, Congress, the White House, HHS Office of Inspector General, and other officials and advocates. OCSE outreach campaigns targeted our Hispanic and Latino customers and other child support populations, such as military service members and veterans, and homeless and incarcerated parents.

TRIBAL PROGRAMS

The Tribal Child Support Program provides grants to Indian Tribes and tribal organizations to operate child support programs. Funding for tribal IV-D grants is authorized pursuant to Section 455(f) of the Social Security Act. A final regulation setting forth the requirements for tribes and tribal organizations to apply for and receive direct funding for operation of tribal child support programs pursuant to 45 CFR 309 was published on March 30, 2004. In order to demonstrate the capacity to operate a tribal child support program, tribes or tribal organizations must include the following tribally determined performance targets in a tribal IV-D plan: paternity establishment, support order establishment, amount of current support to be collected, amount of past-due support to be collected, and any other performance measures a tribe or tribal organization may want to submit.

In FY 2015, the Tribal Child Support Program...
oversaw 59 comprehensive tribal IV-D child support programs and an additional 3 start-up tribal programs. Comprehensive tribal child support programs provide full child support services including: establishment of paternity and support orders, modification and enforcement of support orders, and location of noncustodial parents and their assets. Start-up tribal programs are in the developmental stages of operation and are working to demonstrate their capacity to operate as a comprehensive program. Tribes starting up a program are required to submit their expenditures during this phase of operation; however, start-up funding and statistical data are not covered in this report.

Of the 59 comprehensive tribes in FY 2015, over one-third became comprehensive during the previous 5 years. Despite this, these 59 comprehensive tribes reported collections of over $50 million, which was a 7 percent increase over tribal collections in FY 2014. In FY 2015, there were 53 thousand tribal cases.

59 Comprehensive Tribal Programs

2 new comprehensive programs:
• Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, ID
• Delaware Tribe of Indians, OK

3 start-up programs with applications in review to become comprehensive:
• Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, OK
• Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, NE
• Shinnecock Indian Nation, NY

Most tribal child support programs are relatively new and have challenging caseloads due to a number of factors such as small scale, higher unemployment and higher poverty rates on reservations than in states.
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PROGRAM Performance

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE
National Performance

Figure 1. Collecting Regular On-Time Payments

Table 1. Other Incentive Performance Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statewide Paternity Establishment (%)</td>
<td>96.48</td>
<td>96.82</td>
<td>96.02</td>
<td>95.78</td>
<td>95.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV-D Paternity Establishment (%)</td>
<td>98.96</td>
<td>100.11</td>
<td>99.63</td>
<td>99.64</td>
<td>100.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Order Establishment (%)</td>
<td>80.92</td>
<td>81.92</td>
<td>83.07</td>
<td>84.69</td>
<td>85.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost-Effectiveness ($)</td>
<td>5.12</td>
<td>5.19</td>
<td>5.31</td>
<td>5.25</td>
<td>5.26</td>
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Table 2. Total Number of Children in the Child Support Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Children in Child Support Cases</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17,340,482</td>
<td>17,156,552</td>
<td>16,899,994</td>
<td>16,337,739</td>
<td>15,898,934</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 2. Total Distributed Collections and Total Administrative Expenditures ($ Billions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Distributed Collections ($)</td>
<td>27.30</td>
<td>27.72</td>
<td>28.01</td>
<td>28.20</td>
<td>28.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Distributed to Families ($)</td>
<td>25.62</td>
<td>26.11</td>
<td>26.54</td>
<td>26.81</td>
<td>27.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Administrative Expenditures ($)</td>
<td>5.66</td>
<td>5.66</td>
<td>5.59</td>
<td>5.69</td>
<td>5.75</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Table 3. Average Collections per Case with Support Orders by Assistance Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assistance ($)</td>
<td>1,459</td>
<td>1,456</td>
<td>1,368</td>
<td>1,516</td>
<td>1,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Assistance ($)</td>
<td>2,316</td>
<td>2,259</td>
<td>2,210</td>
<td>2,326</td>
<td>2,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never Assistance ($)</td>
<td>3,893</td>
<td>3,868</td>
<td>3,859</td>
<td>3,945</td>
<td>3,984</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Child Support 2015: More Money for Families

**Collections**

- **$32 Billion** in child support collected by state and tribal child support programs in FY2015
  - 95% went to families
  - 75% collected through income withholding from the employee’s paycheck
  - 5% reimbursed public assistance dollars

**CaseLoad**

- In 2015 the child support program served **16 Million children**
  - More than 1 in 5 children in the U.S.

**Families eligible for child support**

- **29%** of custodial families have income below the federal poverty level
- Child support represents **41%** of family income for poor custodial families that receive it

**Custodial parents eligible for child support**

- **82%** are women
- **78%** are 30 or older
- **55%** have just one eligible child
- **68%** White
- **25%** Black
- **23%** Hispanic (any race)

**Cost-Effectiveness**

- One of the most cost-effective government programs
- For every **$1.00** spent...
  - ...the child support program collects **$5.26**