

## Child Support

The purpose of Ohio's child support program is to provide children with the opportunity for a better life. By working with both parents to establish and enforce support orders, the child support program helps children receive the financial and medical support they deserve. Ohio's program touches more children than any other program in Ohio except education, and helps families work toward becoming and remaining self sufficient.

At the state level, child support policy and guidelines are established to support local program efforts through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Office of Child Support. The program provides for a variety of services ranging from paternity establishment to enforcement of financial and medical obligations. Program achievements reflect a joint effort involving federal, state and local agencies.

At the local level, child support is administered primarily by local county child support enforcement agencies. In some counties however, child support is a division within the county department of job and family services. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services oversees local operations and acts as an advisor to each of the counties on policy and technical issues whether or not the agency is a separate, stand alone entity. All child support payments pass through the state's centralized collection and disbursement unit known as Child Support Payment Central. This includes cases for individuals who are on public assistance (even if the services were not formally requested), as well as those who are not on public assistance.

### Services provided by the child support enforcement agencies

- Location of nonresidential parents
- Paternity Establishment
- Establishment and enforcement of child support and medical support orders
- Review and modification of support orders

### How Ohio Compared With Other States In Federal Fiscal Year 2003

- Ohio ranked second nationally in total IV-D collections distributed
- Ohio ranked first nationally in non-Ohio Works First collections
- Ohio ranked seventh nationally in total paternitys established

### Child Support Payment Central Statistics (CSPC)

- 12,498,529 incoming payments were processed through CSPC in calendar year 2003
- On an average day, CSPC processes 49,994 payments worth \$8,784,954
- 2.6 million, or 22 percent of outgoing child support payments were issued by direct deposit in 2003.

#### State Fiscal Year (SFY)

##### 2003 Statistics:

- \$1.924 billion was collected, a 2.8 percent increase over SFY 2002
- 51,517 paternitys were established
- 920,671 IV-D cases; 70.7 percent of IV-D cases have orders
- 67.5 percent of current IV-D support owed is being collected

Cases are considered IV-D if clients have received public assistance (OWF) or have completed an application for child support services. Non-IV-D case load participants have not received public assistance or requested services.