

# Division of Child Support

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services  
Economic Services Administration

## The Washington State Child Support Program

- Helps families access resources so children can thrive through the collection and distribution of more than \$633 million in child support payments for State Fiscal Year 23.
- Collaborates with parents to address the changing needs of families by providing resources to modify child support orders.
- Supports families in meeting their unique needs 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 40% of the income of low-income 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:

- Continuing partnerships with other agencies, tribes and community partners to enhance coordination and improve performance in order to provide a more expansive customer service experience.
- Modernizing our “KIDS” line phone system to improve the customer experience.
- Endorsing a whole family approach that promotes the well-being of all family members, meaning both the paying and receiving parents and the children.
- Adapting policy to modernize the program for the evolving economy.

### DCS helps parents and children

by making sure they have the resources to thrive. When parents contribute by paying child support, they are more likely to have closer relationships with their children, which benefits the entire family. Child support adds to the family's ability to create a solid foundation for children: healthy meals, safe housing and educational opportunities

#### More information:

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Transforming lives

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# Child Support Facts

## Current Support

We continue to develop new ways of working with parents to deliver the services they need for the success of their families.

65.8% represents over \$458 million in child support collected this last fiscal year, in the month it was due.



65.2%  
FFY 2022  
65.8%  
FFY 2023

## 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 23, the Division of Child Support served nearly 615,000 customers (monthly average for SFY 23).

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 strive to support all Washingtonians by providing accessible services that communities need.**

Last year, one in 16 residents benefited from Division of Child Support programs. We help people find the support they need to achieve well-being. 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 23, the Division of Child Support was responsible for more than \$198 million in avoided assistance expenditures in the following programs:

