

Washington State Child Support Program

The Washington State Child Support Program

- Strives to provide the financial support children need to thrive through the collection and distribution of child support payments.
- Provides resources to establish parentage, enforce child support and health care coverage, and change existing child support orders.
- Partners with Washington state employers, community organizations, and other state and local agencies to support Washington families.

The Division of Child Support contributes to the well-being of our state's children, families and communities by:

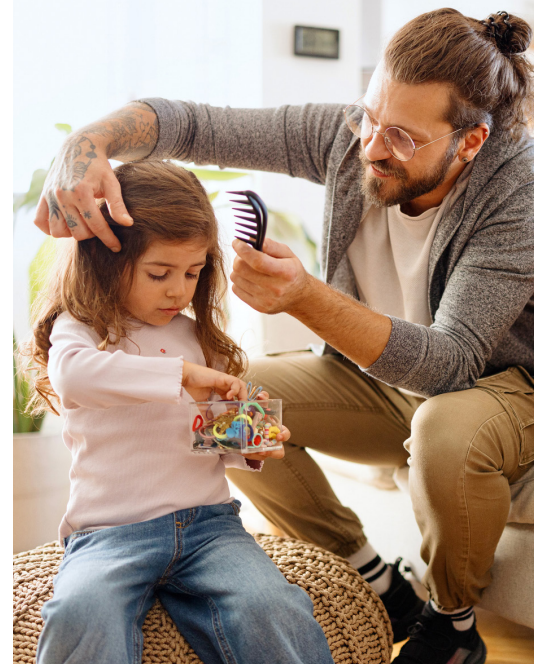
- Increasing the consistency of child support payments to help families achieve economic stability and create a solid foundation for their children. Child support can provide as much as 40% of the income of low-income families, fostering a sense of security.
- Promoting parental responsibility related to financial and medical support. When both parents contribute to their children's expenses, they are more likely to have closer relationships with their children.
- Working collaboratively with community, Tribal and government programs to create a more integrated system of support for the whole family around employment, housing, food, medical, legal resources and more.
- Contracting with organizations across the state to provide parents with free or low-cost services for mediation, parenting plans, visitation arrangements, counseling and parent education.

Cost Avoidance

Studies show that families receiving regular support payments and private medical insurance through child support enforcement services result in a reduction of public expenses, such as Basic Food and medical assistance expenses, due to the effort of child support enforcement. In state fiscal year 2024, DCS was responsible for an estimated \$185 million in avoided expenditures in the following programs:

Medicaid	\$107,846,045
Basic Food	\$50,745,753
Temporary Assistance for Need Families	\$20,019,808

(ESA Management Analytics and Performance Statistics, SFY 2024)



SFY 2024 Highlights

- We collected and distributed more than \$627 million in child support payments. (Economic Services Administration, SFY 2024)
- 62.6% of the payments we received from parents were collected in the month they were due. (ESA Management Analytics and Performance Statistics, SFY 2024)
- We served nearly 600,000 customers each month. (ESA Management Analytics and Performance Statistics, SFY 2024)
- 1 in 17 Washington residents benefited from our programs. (Office of Financial Management, 2024)

More information:

Sharon Redmond, *Director*

Phone: 360.664.5440

Email: Sharon.Redmond@dshs.wa.gov