

FACT SHEET

Child Support

Ohio's child support program provides services to help ensure that children receive the financial and medical support they are legally entitled to and deserve. More than one million children are involved in the program. By working with both parents, the program seeks to establish support orders and maintain consistent support payments. Research has shown that when support payments are ongoing, noncustodial parents are more involved in the lives of their children, which results in better outcomes for the children.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Office of Child Support establishes policies and guidelines for the program based on federal and state laws. The office provides leadership and guidance to county child support enforcement agencies and processes all support payments. Ohio's child support program consistently ranks as one of the best in the nation. This achievement reflects a joint, dedicated effort among federal, state and county agencies.

Who is eligible for child support services?

If an individual with a child receives public assistance, and the other parent is not living in the home, the individual automatically is referred to the county child support enforcement agency to establish a support case. If the individual does not receive public assistance and does not complete the child support application, some services will be available, but not others. For additional information, please contact your local child support enforcement agency.

Where can I go to get child support services?

Ohio's child support services are administered locally by 88 county child support enforcement agencies (CSEAs). Most of these are located within county departments of job and family services. The rest are either stand-alone agencies or are located within the office of the county prosecutor. To find the CSEA in your county, call (800) 686-1556 or visit http://jfs.ohio.gov/county/County_Directory.pdf.

Services available at the CSEAs include the following:

- Location of noncustodial parents
- Paternity establishment
- Establishment and enforcement of financial and medical support orders
- Review and possible modification of support orders

How are payments made?

About 95 percent of Ohio's child support payments are sent to families electronically, either through eQuickPay, which is a debit-like MasterCard, or through direct deposit to a bank account.