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Ohio Sets Record for Child Support Collections

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Ohio is collecting child support payments at a rate not seen since before the recession and delivering more money to the children who deserve it.

In federal fiscal year 2015, which ended on September 30, Ohio collected 69 percent of current child support owed, significantly higher than the national average of 64 percent.

“Just three years ago, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) teamed up with county child support enforcement agencies to launch Project I-70, an initiative designed to increase our collection rate from 66.6 percent to 70 percent,” said ODJFS Director Cynthia C. Dungey. “Today we stand just a hair’s breadth away from our goal.”

Since Project I-70 launched, ODJFS and its county partners have taken a number of steps to improve collections. An expanded waiver and compromise program allows caseworkers to waive some debt owed to the state if parents begin making regular payments to their children. In addition, more flexible rules for license suspensions make it easier for parents who owe unpaid support to keep their driver’s or professional licenses. This, in turn, makes it easier for them to find work and resume making payments.

ODJFS also has seized nearly \$2.7 million in unpaid support from jackpot winners at Ohio casinos and racinos through a partnership with the Lottery Commission, Casino Control Commission, and the casinos and racinos.

Ohio has one of the largest child support systems in the nation and consistently ranks in the top five of all states for collections on current support due. In federal fiscal year 2015, ODJFS and its county partners collected \$1.8 billion on behalf of more than a million children.

Families with questions about child support orders can check their case information online at childsupport.ohio.gov or by contacting their county child support enforcement agency. A directory of county agencies is available online here: jfs.ohio.gov/county.

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