



# News Release

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## **August is Child Support Awareness Month**

### **State child support distributed collections total \$2.3 billion**

SACRAMENTO – During Child Support Awareness Month, the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) reminds parents to meet their responsibility to provide financial and medical support for their children. DCSS' efforts to collect child support payments continued to grow last year to the benefit of families across California.

"We've seen an increase in our ability to collect and parents' ability to pay their child support," said Kathleen Hrepich, Interim Director of DCSS. "We are pleased to be moving in the right direction, as we work hard to provide even more children with the support they need."

California's child support collections increased by \$37 million in the state fiscal year ending in June 2011, with the total distributed collections at \$2.3 billion. Of that, \$1.8 billion was distributed directly to families, and \$500 million was distributed to the state and federal government for recoupment of public assistance and foster care expenses. Figures for the state fiscal year ending in 2012 will soon be available.

The focus of Child Support Awareness Month 2012 is the vital role parents play in providing a positive environment for their children. The theme this year is, "Child support provides security, instills confidence, maintains trust, and helps to make childhood dreams come true."

During the month of August, parents who are past due on their child support payments are encouraged to drop by their local child support agency to make a payment, modify their child support order, obtain a repayment plan, and/or find out whether they qualify for a compromise on the overdue balance.

Child support services are available to the public through a network of 51 county and regional child support agencies, and the Child Support Program serves 1.4 million children and their families. County and state child support professionals work together so that children in the system can rely on their parents for the financial and medical support they need to be healthy and successful.

Learn more online at <http://www.childsup.ca.gov/Home/ChildSupportAwarenessMonth.aspx>

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