



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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August is Child Support Awareness Month

Child Support Programs Help Parents be Successful in Supporting Their Children

SACRAMENTO – August is Child Support Awareness Month serving to remind parents that providing child support is one of the many ways they demonstrate love for their children.

The California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is commemorating the month by recognizing California's 51 local child support agencies in counties across the state, as well as the courts that collectively provide the services necessary to help children get the financial and medical support they are entitled to in a fair and consistent manner statewide.

"Our mission is to collect money owed to families so that children have the security and support they need, but we recognize that some parents face challenges to making their child support payments including under-employment, re-entry after incarceration, or other challenges. Local child support agencies, through partnerships, can play an important role for parents trying to be successful in making consistent child support payments," said Kathleen Hrepich, Interim Director of DCSS.

Parents who are past due on child support payments are encouraged to stop by their local child support agency. When appropriate, child support professionals provide their customers with referrals to other programs for crisis intervention, social services, workforce programs and community organizations that can help address non-child support needs. Each county is different, and they strive to address the unique characteristics of their community with links to programs that can assist parents so that they can be more successful in meeting their child support obligations.

Children have the right to be supported by both parents for their financial, medical and emotional needs. The California Department of Child Support Services, together with the local child support agencies, collected a combined \$2.3 billion in distributed collections during the past federal fiscal year ending in September 2012. That's a \$48 million increase over the previous federal fiscal year. Of that, \$1.8 billion was distributed directly to families, and \$500 million was distributed to the state and federal governments for recoupment of public assistance and foster care expenses.

Learn more online at <http://www.childsup.ca.gov/CSAM2013>.

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