



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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Alisha Griffin, Director  
California Department of  
Child Support Services

## **Governor Brown Reminds Parents: Be There For Your Kids** *August is Child Support Awareness Month*

SACRAMENTO – Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., today, recognized Child Support Awareness Month and reminded noncustodial parents of the critical importance of staying involved with their children.

“Children are our future,” said Governor Brown, in a letter. “Supporting our state’s children today will guarantee they have a rewarding and productive future.”

Children do better when they are able to maintain meaningful relationships with both parents. Yet, many noncustodial parents are minimally engaged with their children. A 2013 U.S. Census Bureau study reported that nearly two-thirds of noncustodial parents have little or no contact with their children.

“Children with actively engaged, nurturing parents grow up to be better off socially, emotionally, academically and financially,” said California Department of Child Support Services Director Alisha Griffin.

To encourage parents to stay involved, the department, in partnership with the 51 local child support agencies in counties throughout the state, is commemorating this year’s Child Support Awareness Month by spreading its message: “On the road of life, their future starts with you.”

This outreach effort includes a radio and a television public service announcement, a poster, a telephone recording, webpages and events in numerous locations throughout the state during the month of August.

Children have a right to be supported by both parents for their financial, medical and emotional needs. The department’s mission is to enhance the well-being of children and the self-sufficiency of families by providing child support services.

Last year, the department and the local child support agencies collected and distributed more than \$2.3 billion in child support on behalf of approximately 1.4 million children and families that participate in the California Child Support Program.

To learn more, visit <http://www.childsup.ca.gov/csam2014>. Anyone interested in applying for child support are encouraged to visit [www.childsup.ca.gov](http://www.childsup.ca.gov) or call their local department of child support services at 866-901-3212.

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