
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2024

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2023



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Child Support Services

Purpose

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Child Support Services (CSS) is responsible for assisting custodial parents eligible to receive court-ordered child and medical support and for processing support payments. Any custodial parent may ask for assistance from the CSS at no charge, although there is a fee of \$35 that is collected from the obligee after \$550 in support has been distributed to the obligee. Due to 2023 Iowa Acts, [Senate File 514](#) (State Government Realignment Act), the name of the HHS child support recovery services unit was officially changed to the CSS from the Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU).

Services

The CSS provides a variety of services for custodial parents, including locating noncustodial parents and their sources of income, establishing paternity, establishing and modifying support orders, and registering other states' orders for enforcement or modification. In FY 2022, the CSS served parents and children on 144,737 cases, processing more than \$316.4 million in support payments. The CSS filed court orders in 94.6% of all cases.

The CSS uses a variety of methods to collect support from noncustodial parents, such as:

- Directing employers to withhold a portion of wages.
- Intercepting federal and State tax refunds.
- Garnishing money from accounts or financial institutions.
- Restricting the issuance of driver's licenses, professional and recreational licenses, motor vehicle registrations, and passports.
- Making referrals to credit agencies.
- Obtaining contempt of court orders against delinquent obligors.

Child support is recovered through 22 field offices, a centralized employer call center, the Collection Services Center, and a central operations unit.

Funding

The CSS budget is funded by a combination of State General Fund appropriations totaling 27.0%, federal funds totaling 70.0%, and other funds totaling 3.0%.

Child Support Services and the Family Investment Program

Child Support Services collections reimburse Iowa's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, called the Family Investment Program (FIP), for the State's share in public assistance collection. This reimbursement totals approximately \$5.2 million annually.

More Information

Child Support Services: hhs.iowa.gov/child-support

HHS Child Support Customer Website: secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/customerweb

LSA Staff Contact: Lindsey Ingraham (515.281.6764) lindesy.ingraham@legis.iowa.gov

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [252B](#), [252C](#), [252D](#), [252E](#), [252F](#), [252H](#), [252I](#), [252J](#), and [252K](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [441—95](#) through [441 — 99](#)

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