
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2020

Fiscal Services Division

November 15, 2019



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Child Support Recovery Unit

Description

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU) 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 CSRU 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.

Services

The CSRU 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 2019, the CSRU served 571,113 parents and children on 162,248 cases, processing 2,681,579 support payments for a total of \$319.9 million. Additionally, the CSRU collected \$251.8 million from employers in FY 2019. The average annual cost for the CSRU to provide services is \$341 per case. The CSRU collects an average of \$2,124 annually per court-ordered case. Caseloads are projected to remain level through FY 2021.

The CSRU 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.

More Information

Child Support Recovery Unit: dhs.iowa.gov/child-support
DHS Child Support Customer Website: secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/customerweb
LSA Staff Contact: Jess R. Benson (515.281.4611) jess.benson@legis.iowa.gov

Funding

The CSRU budget is funded by a combination of State General Fund appropriations totaling 27.0%, federal funds totaling 71.0%, and other funds totaling 2.0%.

Child Support Recovery and the Family Investment Program

Child Support Recovery Unit collections will 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.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

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

Budget Unit Number

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