
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2018

Fiscal Services Division

December 8, 2017



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Child Support Recovery Unit

Description

The Department of Human Services 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. Parents who are receiving cash assistance through the Family Investment Program can access the services at no charge, while all other parents are required to pay a one-time \$25 fee for assistance.

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 2017, the CSRU served 590,311 parents and children on 167,702 cases, processing 2.8 million support payments for a total of \$322.3 million. Additionally, the CSRU collected \$251.1 million from employers in FY 2017. The average annual cost for the CSRU to provide services is \$335 per case. The CSRU collects an average of \$2,082 annually per court-ordered case. Caseloads are projected to remain level through FY 2019.

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: secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/customerweb
LSA Staff Contact: Kenneth C. Ohms (515.725.2200) kenneth.ohms@legis.iowa.gov
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 and federal funds, including federal matching funds and federal incentives based on key performance areas. The total FY 2018 CSRU budget is \$55.7 million, which consists of \$40.1 million in federal funding and \$12.5 million from the State General Fund. Approximately \$3.0 million is received from other funds.

Child Support Recovery and the Family Investment Program

In FY 2018, CSRU collections will reimburse Iowa's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Family Investment Program (FIP), for the State's share in public assistance collection. This reimbursement is expected to total \$6.8 million.

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](#)