

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



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 that 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 2016, the CSRU served 594,377 parents and children, processing 2.8 million support payments for a total of \$322.8 million. Additionally, CSRU collected \$251.1 million from employers in FY 2016. The average annual cost for CSRU to provide services is \$335 per case. The CSRU collects an average of \$2,083 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 drivers, 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 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 CSRU budget is \$58.1 million, which consists of \$42.4 million in federal funding and \$14.6 million from the state General Fund. Approximately \$1.0 million is received from other funds.

Child Support Recovery and the Family Investment Program

In FY 2017, CSRU collections will reimburse Iowa's state 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 \$7.4 million.

Related Statutes

Iowa Code chapters [252B](#), [252C](#), [252D](#), [252E](#), [252F](#), [252H](#), [252I](#), [252J](#), [252K](#), [441](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapters [95](#), [96](#), [97](#), [98](#), and [99](#)

More Information

Child Support Recovery Unit Site: <https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/CustomWeb/>

DHS Child Support Site: http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Child_Support/ChildSupportIndex.html

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

LSA Staff Contact: Angel Banks-Adams (515-281-6301) angel.banks-adams@legis.iowa.gov