

Strong States, Strong Nation



Speed Round

 NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

2017 Human Services Chairs Meeting
Nashville, Tennessee
October 2-4, 2017



Child Support

- Fundamentally, a two-generation program
- Connected to many different topics and supports: TANF, SNAP, child care, incarceration and reentry, workforce and family economic stability

2016 CHILD SUPPORT: MORE MONEY FOR FAMILIES

COLLECTIONS

75% 
of child support is collected
by income withholding from
an employee's paycheck
28% other sources

\$33 Billion 
in child support collected
by state and tribal child support
programs in FY2016

95% 
went to families
5% returned (public assistance duties)

CASELOAD

15.6 Million children served by the child support program in 2016



1 in 5 children
in the U.S.


Child support in comparison to other programs*



Child support accounts for about half the average income of low-income parents who receive it, lifting over 1 million people out of poverty in 2015.*

COST-EFFECTIVENESS

One of the most cost-effective
government programs

\$5.33 collected by the child support program
for every \$1.00 spent 



Child Support Cooperation

□ Cooperation Requirements

- All TANF and, in most states, Medicaid, applicants are required to cooperate with child support enforcement as a condition of eligibility.
- States have the option of requiring SNAP and Child Care Assistance applicants to cooperate with child support enforcement.
 - SNAP: FL, ID, KS, MA, MI, MS, NE, OH, SD
 - 2017 Legislation: AL, AK, AR, IN, ME, MS, NH, NC, PA, SC, SD, WV, WI.
 - SD legislation was enacted
 - Child Care: AZ, AR, CO, CT, IL, KS, ME, MD, MS, MT, NE, NM, NY, NC, OK, RI, SD, TN, TX, VA, WA, WI
 - 2017 Legislation: NC, WA (both enacted)
- Good cause exemptions for domestic violence victims



Child Support and Public Assistance

- Pass-Through and Disregard
 - In addition, TANF recipients are required to assign their right to child support to the state as reimbursement for TANF benefits.
 - Just over half of the states have enacted some level of pass-through, allowing a portion or all of the child support received on behalf of a TANF recipient to be paid directly to the family, and disregarding that amount when determining eligibility.
 - AK, CA, CO, CT, DE, DC, GA, IL, ME, MD, MA, MN, MT, NJ, NM, NY, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, TN, TX, VT, VA, WV, WI



Child Support and Incarceration

- ❑ **New Federal Rule**
 - ❑ Cannot hold a noncustodial parent in contempt for failure to pay child support without finding an ability to pay
 - ❑ Prohibited from treating incarceration as voluntary unemployment for purposes of child support modification



Child Support and Incarceration

- 2017 Legislation: 19 states introduced 46 bills in 2017

- Reentry Services: mainly job training
- Suspension and Modification during Incarceration: some automatically by operation of law
- Information Sharing: notifying inmates of modification procedures
- Work Release/Work While Incarcerated/Alternatives to Incarceration
- Contempt/Ability to Pay
- Criminal Penalties
- Parent Programs/Children of Incarcerated Parents Programs





Child Support and Workforce

- Currently workforce development is not an authorized use of IV-D child support funds, however, states have created partnerships with other agencies to leverage existing opportunities to support noncustodial parents.
 - Washington Opportunity Center for Employment & Education Pilot at North Seattle College (2009 HB 2684)
 - Washington SNAP E&T and Child Support Alternative Solutions Collaboration
 - Reciprocal Partnership: Washington's SNAP E&T RISE Program refers to Alternative Solutions and Alternative Solutions refers to SNAP E&T
 - Arizona's Father Matters Program:
 - MOU with Arizona DCSS help shared customers achieve self-sufficiency by increasing their overall earning capacity.
 - Help identify and eliminate barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment.
 - Teaches important skills such as personal financial planning and budgeting.



Home Visiting

- ❑ What is Home Visiting?
 - ❑ Prevention strategy
 - ❑ Parental engagement tool
 - ❑ Targeted
 - ❑ Voluntary
 - ❑ Promotes key child and adult outcomes
- ❑ What makes it Effective?



Home Visiting

- How is home visiting funded?
 - ▣ Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)
 - ▣ Federal sources
 - ▣ State funding
 - ▣ Private organizations



Home Visiting

- Why are legislators thinking about home visiting?
 - ▣ Importance of the first three years
 - ▣ Home visiting is already going on in every state
 - ▣ Strong return on investment
 - ▣ Questions about the most effective approaches and coordination between programs
 - ▣ Federal home visiting funding gives state lawmakers an opportunity to fund new home visiting services and strengthen existing programs



Home Visiting

State legislative examples

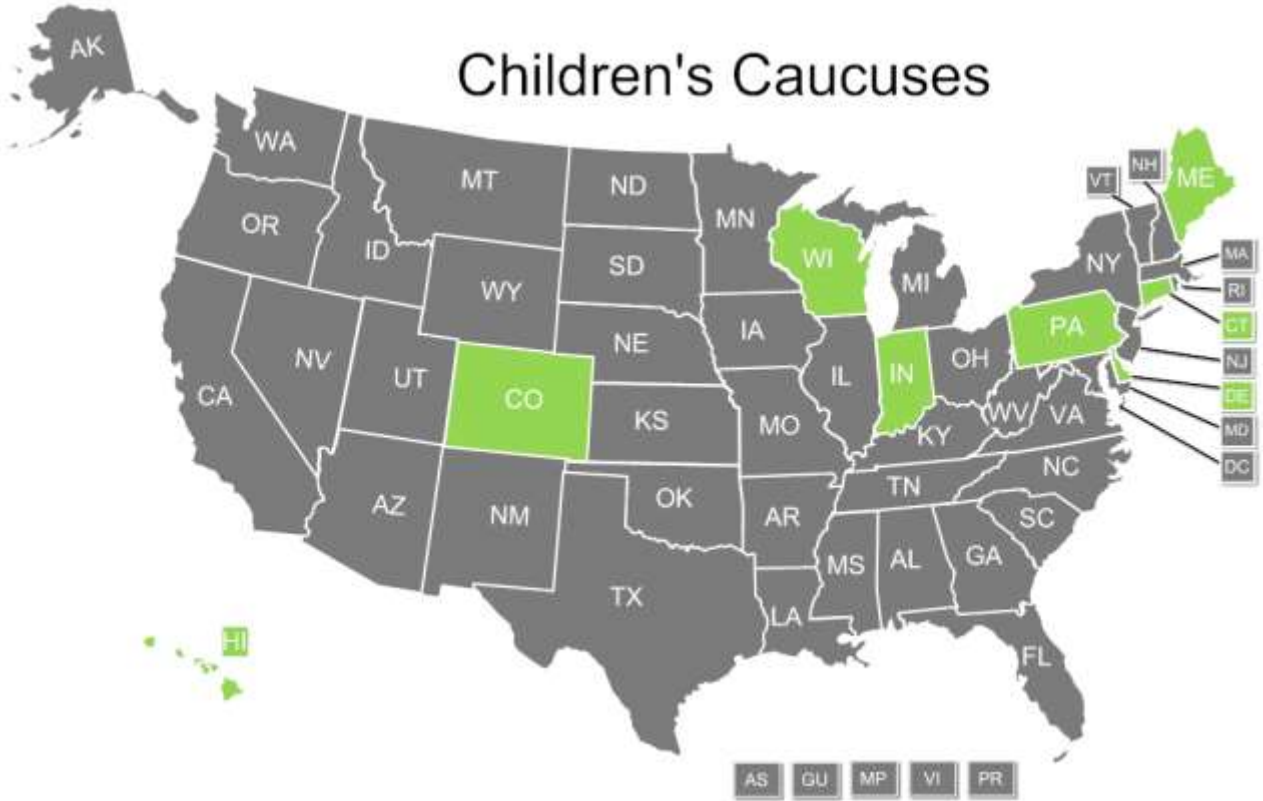
- ❑ Arkansas SB 491: Requires implementation of statewide, voluntary home visiting services to promote prenatal care and healthy births. (2013)
- ❑ Connecticut SB 925: Establishes a home visitation program consortium. (2015)
- ❑ Rhode Island SB 2096 | HB 7220: Establishes the Rhode Island Family Home Visiting Act. (2016)
- ❑ Michigan HB 5572 | Requires the Departments of Community Health, Human Services and Education to collaborate and ensure that funds are used to fund programs meeting evidence-based or promising practice standards and program models using home visiting as voluntary, primary method of service delivery (2012)



Home Visiting

- Key considerations for state legislators
 - ▣ What outcomes are you trying to achieve?
 - ▣ Are you funding programs that demonstrate high-quality services and measurable results?
 - ▣ Are your home visiting investments sustainable?
 - Future changes in federal funding
 - Focus investments on program that produce clear improvement in outcomes

Children's Caucuses





Children's Caucuses

- ❑ Colorado's Children's Caucus
 - ❑ <http://cochildrenscaucus.weebly.com/>
- ❑ Hawaii's Keiki Caucus
 - ❑ <https://damontucker.com/2017/01/26/hawaii-keiki-caucus-sets-priorities-in-2017-legislative-package/>
- ❑ Indiana's Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
 - ❑ <http://www.in.gov/children/>
- ❑ Wisconsin's Children's Caucus
 - ❑ <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/childrenscaucus/>

Federal Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities (2014 – 2016)



- 4 – 8 children die every day from abuse and neglect
- ½ less than a year old – 75% are under 3
- CPS hotline call - best predictor of a child's potential risk of injury death before 5
- Many child maltreatment fatality victims are unknown to CPS but seen by health care and other professionals
- Access to real-time data on families is critical – numerous legal and policy barriers
- Exact number of children who die from abuse and neglect is unknown
- Few promising solutions
- Only one evidence-based practice shown to reduce fatalities—the Nurse-Family Partnership

Three Branch Institute to Improve Child Safety and Prevent Child Fatalities 2016 - 2017



NCSL, National Governors Association, Casey Family Programs, National Center for State Courts, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

- ▣ Alabama, Kentucky, Maryland, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin
- ▣ Align executive, legislative and judicial
- ▣ Comprehensive, statewide work plan
- ▣ Address child safety and child fatality of children known to child welfare and those at risk of child welfare involvement – such as screened out children

Three Branch Institute to Improve Child Safety and Prevent Child Fatalities 2016 - 2017



- Predictive analytics
- Trauma informed court practices
- Data sharing and data integration across agencies
- Plans for safe care of infants affected by substance abuse
- Addressing substance exposed newborns
- Safe sleep baby box campaigns
- Kinship care
- Examine child fatality review process and cases
- Partnerships - child protection, law enforcement, education, health care providers and other stakeholders
- Adopting a “culture of safety” in child welfare
- Unified statewide safety screening and assessment
- Infant toddler courts
- Review critical incidents
- Enhance legislative Children’s Caucus