

Lassen County

Department of Child Support Services





LASSEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT

Our Mission

We will faithfully uphold the laws relevant to the establishment and collection of child and medical support and extend our commitment to the community by providing services to promote family self-sufficiency. We offer our assistance to all individuals in a professional and courteous manner.

We believe we can make a positive difference in the lives of children by being dedicated to our mission and performing our duties to the best of our abilities. We will treat the public and fellow employees with respect, fairness and dignity. We will act with integrity and be impartial in all of our decisions. We take pride in the trust bestowed upon us in our mission and we will strive to always uphold this trust.

Guiding Principles

- Adopting carefully considered policies
- Staying competitive through the implementation of proven practices and the effective use of technology
- Delivering services in a business and constituent friendly, customer service driven, cost effective manner
- Utilizing strategic thinking and action
- Promoting an action-oriented, empowered, and accountable workforce
- Planning for and developing programs to meet future needs
- Operating in a fiscally responsible manner

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Federal Performance Measures (FPM)

- Guided by the Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998, these measures drive the way federal incentives are paid to the states:

FPM 1: Paternity Establishment Percentage

FPM 2: Percent of Cases with Child Support Orders

FPM 3: Percentage of Current Collections

FPM 4: Percentage of Arrearage Collection

FPM 5: Cost Effectiveness Level

1. Paternity Establishment Percentage (PEP)-

This measure is the ratio of the number of children in the caseload in the fiscal year, or as of the end of the fiscal year, who were born to unmarried parents with paternity established or acknowledged, to the number of children in the caseload as of the end of the preceding fiscal year who were born to unmarried parents.

2. Support Order Establishment:

This measures the number of child support cases with support orders as compared with the number of child support cases.

3. Current Collections:

This measures the amount of current support collected as compared to the total current support amount owed.

4. Arrearage Collections:

This measures the number of child support cases paying towards arrears as compared to the number of child support cases with arrears due.

5. Cost-Effectiveness:

This measures the total child support dollars collected as compared to total child support dollars expended.

Each performance measure has a threshold enacted into law that translates a state's performance into an applicable percentage.

The upper threshold is 80 percent for all performance measures; the lower threshold is 50 percent for paternity and support order establishment and 40 percent for current and arrears collections.

The upper threshold for cost-effectiveness is \$5.00 and the lower threshold for cost effectiveness is \$2.00.



Prior Month and Year FPMs

LASSEN FPMs



How we stack up-

Our Performance Measures

Cost Effectiveness

(collections compared to program costs)

FFY	Lassen	CA DCSS
2022	\$3.88	\$2.46
2023	\$2.66	\$2.35
2024	\$2.42	\$2.28
2025	\$2.92	\$2.14
Monthly Snapshot June 2025		\$3.34

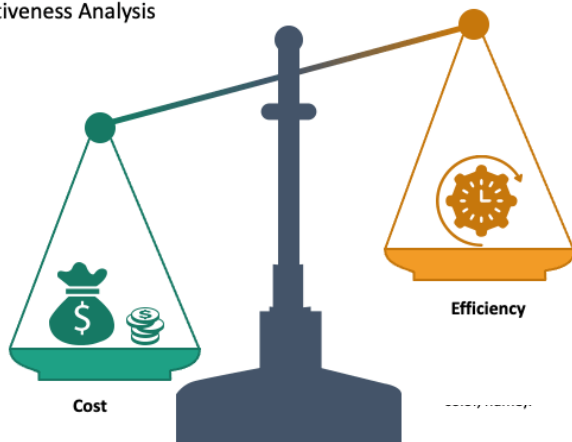
On-going Initiatives to Improve and Maintain the \$2 threshold.

- Focused effort on collections through outreach, text services, more through use of locate services.
- Targeted collections on arrears on long term delinquent cases.
- Fiscal Responsibility

*Obstacles- increased costs/inflation

COST EFFECTIVENESS

Cost – Effectiveness Analysis





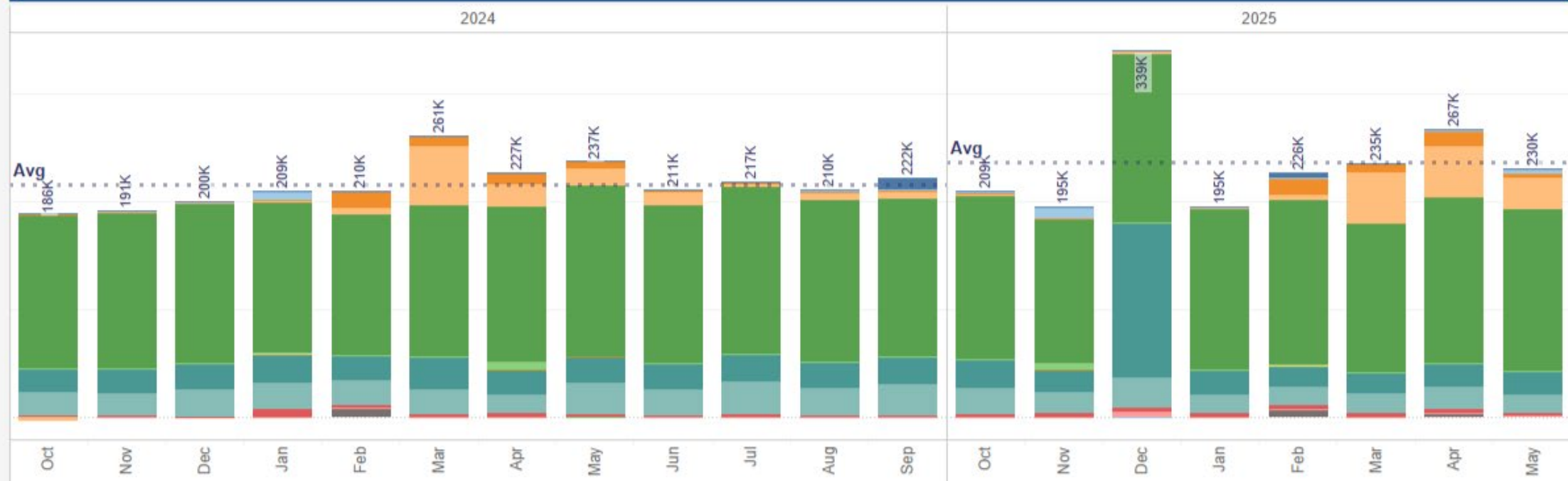
Collections by Source

County
LASSEN

LASSEN FFY 2024 & 2025 Total Collections by Month

Source1

- CIIP
- DIB
- FTB
- IRS
- IWO
- Liens
- Other
- Other Countries
- Other States
- Regular Payment
- UIB
- Worker's Comp
- FTB Non-Tax



Recent Changes to Child Support

- Hiring & Trainings
- Outreach Events & Activities
- Former Assistance Arrears Pass Through
- Drivers License Release- SB1055
- FEM Final Rule
- FY 2025/26 Proposed Budget Overview

DCSS Outreach Activities & Events

- Staff w/special stakeholder connections- Veterans, Realtors, Community Partners, etc.
- Collaboration with Lassen College and AFWD
- Court Presence- staff designated to be available during family law hearings and updated information available at the Courthouse
- A DCSS Booth during at least two community events annually.
- Quarterly meetings with Lassen Superior Court
- Monthly meetings with LC Probation and meetings/collaboration with other Community & County Departments as requested.



Picture @ Legislator
Maggie Krell's Office



We Attended Legislative Day 2025-

On March 12, 2025, Director, Elizabeth Krier and Assistant Director Chris Sullivan represented Lassen County at the Child Support Director Legislative Day to advocate for Child Support Services.

-August is Child Support Awareness Month

-Site Visits from the State Regional Administrator March 2025

-Hosting the Regional Directors Meeting in Lassen County in October 2025

-Site visit from the CSDA Director at the end of September 2025

Former Assistance Arrears Pass Through

Starting May 1, 2024- Child Support laws have changed, allowing Child Support Services to send more money to California families who used to receive cash public assistance through CalWORKs.

With this Law change the person receiving support will receive all monies previously owed to the state, when the person paying support make payments on their arrears. The goal of this pass through is to encourage and support self-sufficiency.

For more information log on to <https://childsupport.ca.gov/formerassistance>

Current Support Pass Through

As of January 1, 2022, parents currently receiving cash assistance through the CalWORKs program will receive \$100 for one child up to \$200 for 2 or more children. However, if the current child support collected is less than they will only receive the amount collected, NOT the increased amount.

It lets families have more money while the government keeps less as reimbursement

- It DOES NOT mean that the parent ordered to pay support is paying more
- It DOES NOT mean that the family receiving CalWORKS will receive less.

Note: The previous amount received from pass through was \$50.



FEM Final Rule

- The Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization of Child Support Enforcement Programs Final Rule or (FEM Final Rule). The FEM Final Rule requires changes to California's child support guidelines and legal proceedings for establishment of support orders. Under the FEM Final Rule requirements, child support orders must be based on the noncustodial parent's actual earnings, income, and other evidence of ability to pay and the child support guidelines must take into consideration the subsistence level needs of low-income obligors. If imputation of income is authorized, state statutes and procedures must require the order to be based on a consideration of the known specific circumstances of the noncustodial parent.
- The FEM Final Rule emphasizes the importance of fact-gathering and setting right-sized orders based on evidence of the noncustodial parent's actual income and ability to pay, which also takes into consideration the subsistence level needs at low-income levels and prohibits orders based on standard presumed amounts (which were based on working 40 hours at minimum wage).
- The California Department of Child Support Services is working on implementing changes to the order establishment process by **January 1, 2026**. This will include using specific methods to determine earning capacity and removing the option to use presumed income in the establishment process.



SB1055- California Drivers License Release

- Signed in 2022, Senate Bill 1055 states that Californians whose income is below a certain level could not have their driver's license suspended as an enforcement action for unpaid child support .
- SB 1055 added a statute that prohibits child support agencies from suspending a driver's license as an enforcement tool unless the parent ordered to pay support has an annual household income above 70 percent of the Area Median Income for the county.
- Effective January 1, 2025, California Child Support Services and the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) released over 149,000 suspended licenses, so that everyone qualified under the new law with a license suspended under the old law can legally drive again.

*Lassen County Median Income as of June 4, 2025, is \$64,395,



Child Support Budget Overview

- DCSS received \$0 of Lassen County General Fund
- 100% State Funded

2024/25- Total Budget of \$1,059,962 & additional \$12, 850 for EDP

(The costs associated with the creation of an electronic data processing (EDP) system for an installation(2) The cost of adapting an EDP system to another type of installation, including but not limited to system transfer, change in equipment, or change in operating system.)

- 2025/26 Funding levels remain consistent
- Total Proposed Allocation of \$1,072,812

Changes to this year's budget proposal include reallocating two Child Support Specialist positions for a total of 5, this is related to the salary savings from pervious years. This will allow for smaller, more manageable caseloads for our newer staff to manage.

In our office as of June 2025, the average caseload for a Child Support Specialists is 300 cases.

Lassen Performance for May 2025

<div>1,766</div> <div>Children Supported</div> <div>Year to Date as of 7/2/2025</div>	<div>1,238</div> <div>Families Engaged</div> <div>Year to date as of May 2025</div>	<div>1,161</div> <div>Case Count</div> <div>Count as of 7/2/2025 1:00:04 AM</div>
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So why does all this matter??

- The child support program encourages responsible parenting, family self-sufficiency and child well-being by providing assistance in locating parents, establishing paternity, establishing, modifying and enforcing support obligations and obtaining child support for children. The program was enacted in January 1975 as Part D of Title IV of the Social Security Act (P.L. 93-647). It operates as a robust partnership between the federal government and state and tribal governments. It is administered by the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) and functions in all 54 states and territories and over 60 tribes. The program enforces and facilitates consistent child support payments so that children can count on their parents for the financial and emotional support they need to be healthy and successful.
- **The child support program is very different from other social welfare programs. It does not transfer public funds to families as most social welfare programs do; it enforces the private transfer of income from parents who do not live with their children to the household where the children live**, thereby increasing the financial well-being of children and strengthening the ties between children and parents who live apart. Most parents who do not live with their children want to support them. The child support program is there to engage and assist them. If parents are unwilling to support their children who live apart from them, the program is there to enforce that responsibility. **The child support program is also different than a number of other social welfare programs in that it interacts with both parents for the benefit of their children.**
- Over half of custodial families in the child support program have incomes below 150 percent of the poverty threshold, while 80 percent have incomes below 300 percent of the poverty threshold, Approximately one quarter of noncustodial parents have incomes below the federal poverty level.
- The child support program has evolved over its 40-year existence from a focus on retaining child support to recover welfare costs to a family-centered program. This evolution has been guided by federal legislation and the changing needs of families. The child support program depends upon effective statewide automated systems and a broad array of strong enforcement authorities to obtain support for families. At the same time, the program recognizes it must serve the entire family to achieve the ultimate goal of improving the financial and emotional support of children. An effective child support program incorporates a mix of technology-driven processes, standard enforcement responses, and individual case management to maximize outcomes for children and families.



Thank You