



Working with Child Support

Effective Strategies from Model State and Local Partnerships

March 28th, 2013

12:30 - 2:00PM EST



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National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Overview

- The **National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse** is an Office of Family Assistance (OFA) funded national resource for fathers, practitioners, programs/Federal grantees, states, and the public at-large who are serving or interested in supporting strong fathers and families.

- NRFC Director: **Kenneth Braswell, Sr.**

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- NRFC Manager: **Patrick J. Patterson**

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National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Overview

- Our goals are to provide, facilitate, and disseminate current research , proven and innovative strategies that will encourage and strengthen fathers and families, and providers of services via the following priorities:
 - Robust NRFC Website - www.Fatherhood.gov
 - Annual Media Campaign that will the promote Responsible Fatherhood field and efforts of local programs (*Fatherhood Buzz*)
 - Social media engagement



National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Overview

NRFC Priorities Continued:

- Development and dissemination of written products that will advance the responsible fatherhood research and practice national agendas
- Outreach and expert presentations at conferences and events
- National Call Center for Dads and Practitioners (**1-877-4DAD411**)



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National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Overview

NRFC Priorities Continued:

- President's Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative (PFMI)
- Virtual Trainings (like today's Webinar)



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Working with Child Support: Effective Strategies from Model State and Local Partnerships

Vicki Turetsky, Commissioner
Office of Child Support Enforcement

March 28, 2013



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Child support improves children's chances in life

- One of largest sources of income support
- When received, child support is 40% of the income of poor families
- A dollar of child support improves children's **educational outcomes** more than any other income source
- Most children do better when both parents are actively engaged in their children's lives



Children usually receive reliable support when:

1. The noncustodial parent has a steady **job**
2. An income withholding order is in place...70% of collections are withheld from paychecks
3. The parent can **comply** with the support order
4. The parent maintains **ties** with the child





BUT...it all starts with a job

- Payroll withholding works well when the parent is employed
- But not all parents have **steady jobs**
- Low-income noncustodial parents owe 70% of child support arrears



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Sometimes there is not enough money to go around...*

- 28% of custodial families are poor
- 25% of noncustodial parents are poor

*(But kids still need school clothes)





The paradigm shift in child support

- Increase reliable support to children as they grow up
- Realistic orders
- **Early intervention** to get parent on right track and prevent debt build-up
- Links to employment, health care, parenting time and community services
- Encourage payment... build **ability** and **willingness** to pay



Five evidence-based tools to increase **regular** payments

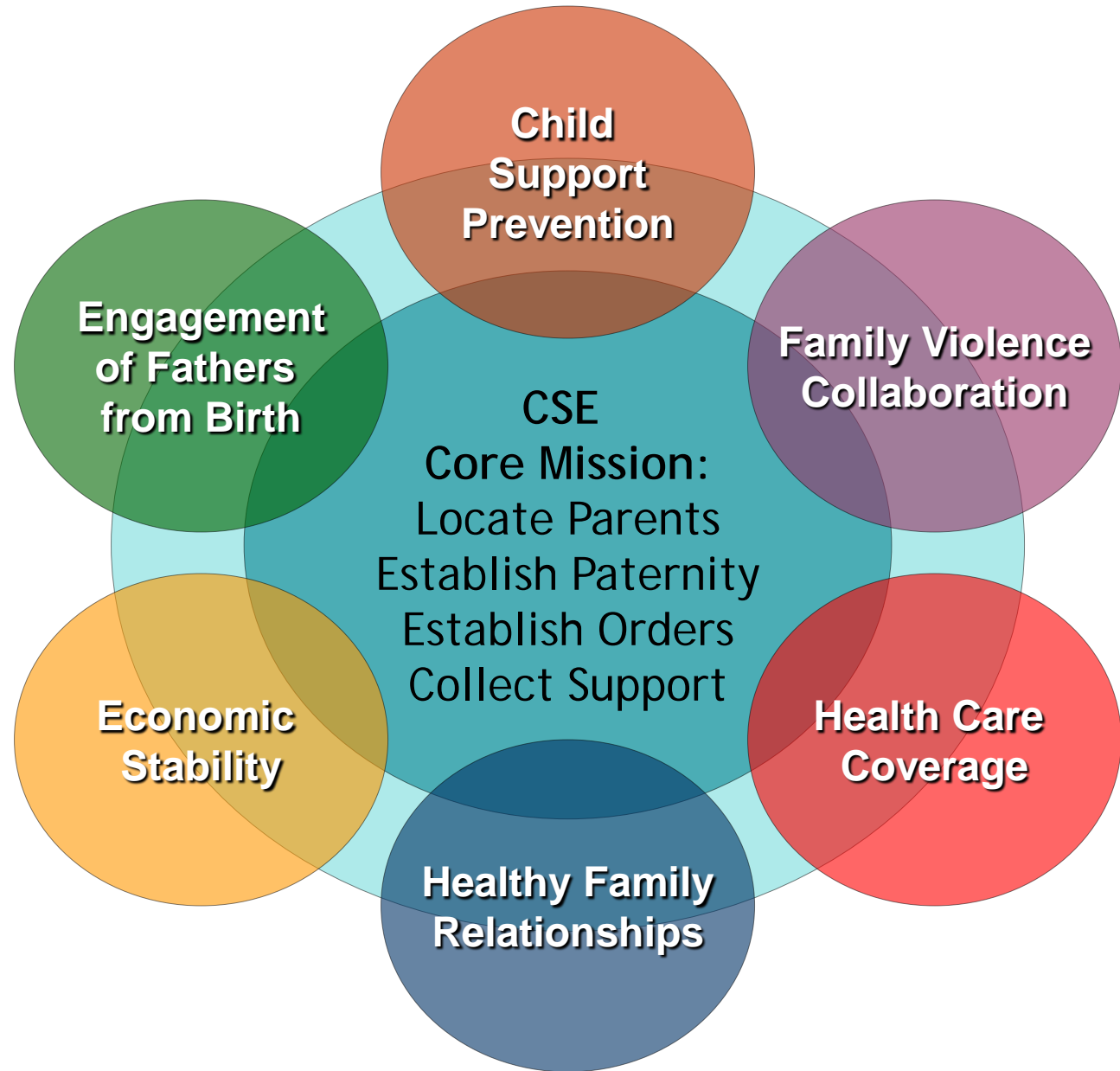
- Employment
- Right-sized orders
- Debt reduction
- Parenting time
- Family distribution



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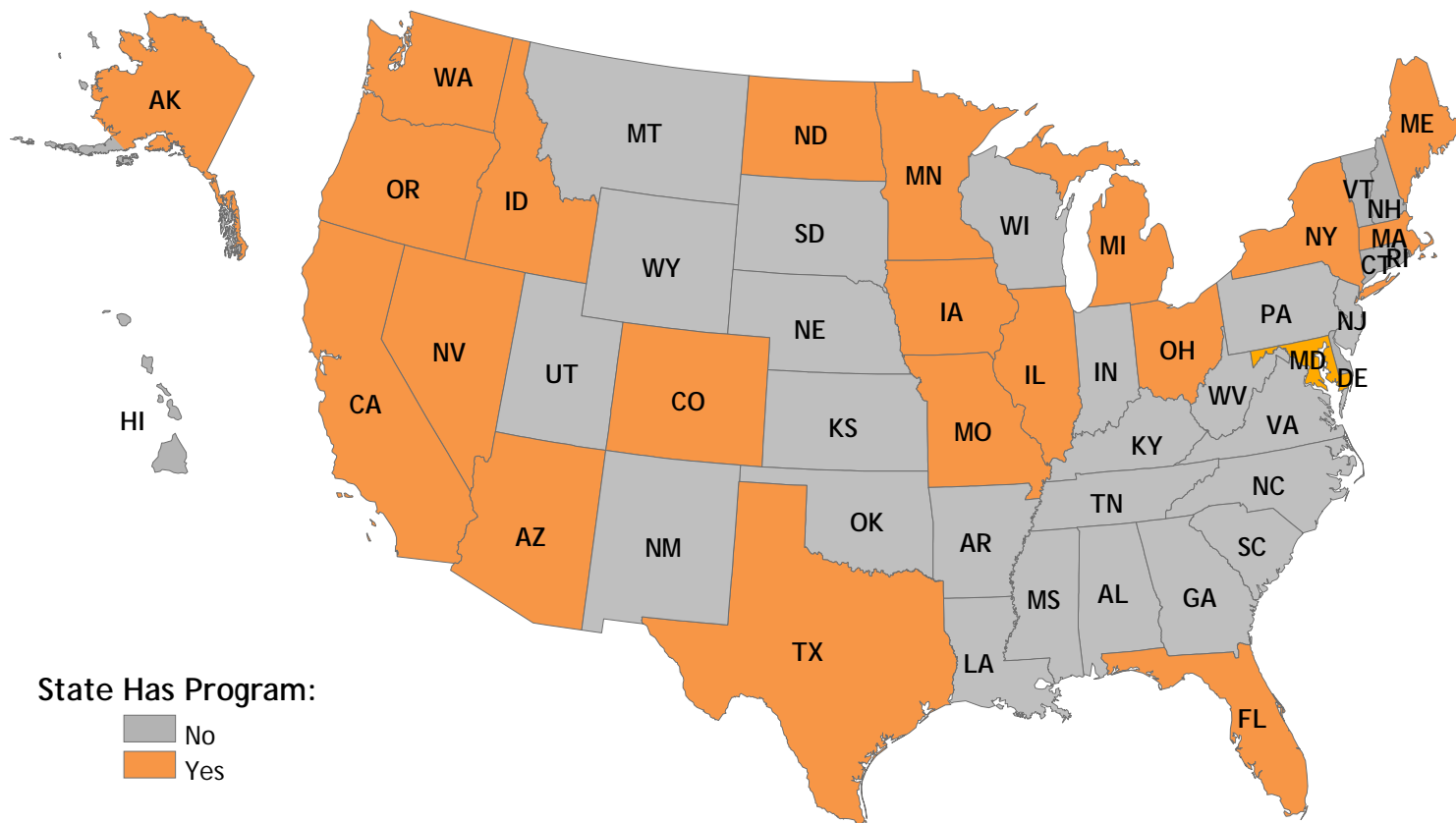
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Family-Centered Child Support Services





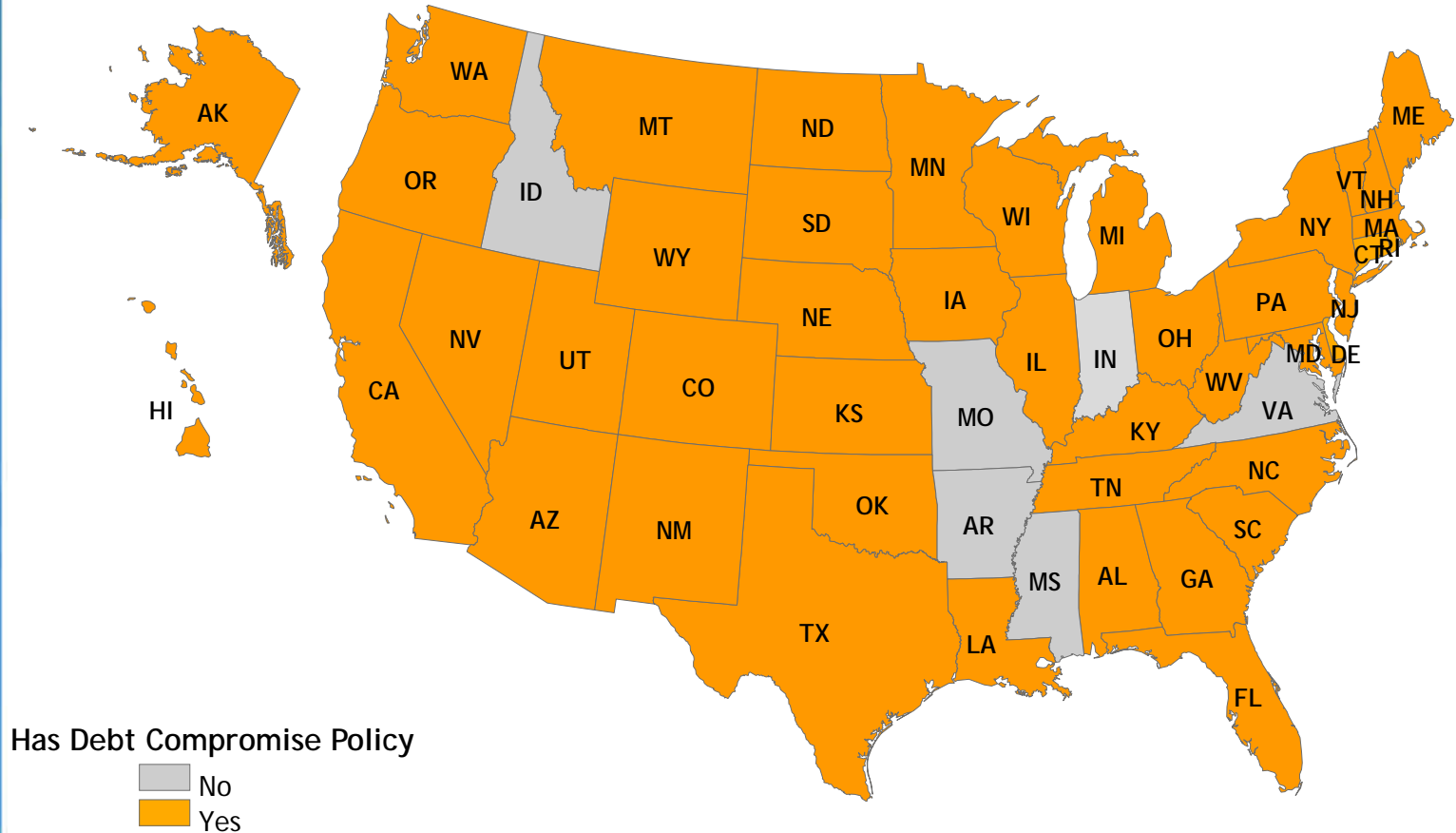
State Child Support Agencies with Programs to Ensure that Child Support Orders Reflect Current Earnings



As of September 2011, at least 21 states and the District of Columbia are operating at least 35 programs designed to ensure that child support orders reflect current income at establishment and are modified when income changes.



State Child Support Agencies with Debt Compromise Policies



As of September 2011, 44 states and the District of Columbia have policies to compromise child support debt owed to the State.



OCSE family-centered initiatives

- Employment demonstration project (CSPED)
- Parenting time grants
- Health care
- Building Assets for Fathers and Families
- Access to Justice (Turner v. Rogers)
- Outreach to military and veteran families
- Addressing incarceration
- Proposed rule in clearance



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Michael Hayes

March 28, 2013



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Child Support “Need to Knows”

- Federal authorizing statute and performance measures/incentives
- Management of large case loads
- Bottom line matters
- 80/20 rule?
- Care about children/families



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What You Bring

- Ability to reach distrustful and disconnected
- Focus on empowering and motivating
- Strength-based approach
- Training capacity
- Care about children/families



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Framing Your Strengths in Child Support Terms

- Shared commitment to children and families
- Ability to help with the “20”
- Consumer education – “myth-buster”
- Navigator/ambassador for public systems



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Deal Killers

- Collusion with fathers
- “Anti-CP” language
- “All you care about is the money”
- Passivity



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Examples of Success

- Tarrant County Fatherhood Coalition
 - Workforce services
 - Community organization training
 - Co-applicants on grant funded projects
- San Angelo Healthy Families
 - Paternity establishment
 - Child support case work - accompaniment
 - Co-applicant on grant funded projects
- Access and visitation grant projects
 - New Day Family Services - FOCUS
 - Escape Family Resource Center - Dads Count



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Contact information

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Cedric Petteway

Responsible Fatherhood Specialist/Child
Support Liaison

March 28, 2013



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Establishing the Relationship with Dads

Relate - to establish a social relationship with a person

- There is an interpersonal skill that has to be activated when speaking with a dad for the first time.
- The Baggage Factor:
Everyone comes with baggage, I'm happy to be able to help dads unpack some of their baggage.





Introduction to The Baltimore Responsible Fatherhood Project - HELPING FATHERS AND FAMILIES WORK

- Improving acquisition and demonstration of parenting skills
- Increasing healthy relationships and marriage readiness
- Increasing client job readiness and employability
- Increasing current child support payments





Excellence through Evaluation

- *“A strategy without metrics is just a wish, and metrics that are not aligned with strategy are a waste of time.”*

Emory Powell, Texas Instruments



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The dads we work with

- Many of our clients did not do well in school (no HSD, no GED).
- They often have poor soft and hard skills.
- Most are living in poverty.
- Their experience of child support and other public agencies is that “you walk through a minefield” -- so there is a low level of trust with public institutions.



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Infusion: Introduction of a solution into the body for a therapeutic purpose.





Establishing the vital partnership with Maryland's Office of Child Support Enforcement and the Baltimore Responsible Fatherhood Project.

- Articulate child support language on a level the dads can understand.





Tips for Dads and Fatherhood Practitioners

- Check with your local child support office for enrollment in e-child support, which can help dads monitor, track, and make payments.
- Payment Incentive Program: Baltimore program designed to encourage eligible NCP's to make consistent payments for the first 12 months, by reducing 50% of state-owed arrears.
 - After 24 months, can reduce 100% of state owed arrears.
 - Also enables obligors to have drivers license reinstated in addition to possibly arranging a payment plan.
- Fatherhood practitioners should always have a relationship with their local child support office. This is vital as child support offices are likely to be less rigid with their enforcement tactics regarding your clients.
- Invite local child support to facilitate workshops with your clients re. all aspects of enforcement and better management of their cases.
 - Debunk myths of child support as an adversary by providing dads first hand information.
 - Dads will be more willing to address and communicate with child support.
 - Dads' overall knowledge and understanding will be enhanced as result.



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Thank you



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