

California Department of Child Support Services Profile

California Health and Human Services Agency (pg.66 CA Unified Strategic Plan)
As one of California's key public workforce development institutions, California Health and Human Services (CHHS) represents the Department of Aging, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) and the Office of Statewide Healthcare Planning and Development on the State Board and actively supports job placement and training services for: individuals with disabilities, socially and economically disadvantaged, at-risk youth, sustainability to families, and other traditionally underrepresented populations with high unemployment rates.

California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS)

DCSS serves as the state Title IV-D agency and is responsible to the Federal Government for the overall administration and regulatory oversight of the Child Support Program. Services are delivered through a network of over 48 local and regional child support agencies (LCSAs) that serve over 3.5 million children and families annually. DCSS oversees the entire administration of the Child Support Program and ensures compliance with all federal requirements and laws.

The vision of DCSS is that all parents are engaged in supporting their children. This is achieved through the delivery of services including: establishing paternity, locating parents, establishing child and medical support orders, enforcing and modifying child and medical support orders, and collecting and disbursing child support payments.

Clients/Service Population: DCSS has a current caseload of 1.2 million cases and serves over 3.5 million children and families. In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015-2016, 297,057 of the 1.2 million cases were receiving public assistance and 647,448 formerly received public assistance. The remaining cases are families who have never received public assistance.

Strengths: DCSS has strong relationships with local child support agencies (LCSAs) who facilitate the services we offer in every county. Each LCSA offers comprehensive services to our program participants that promote parental responsibility. The California Child Support Program has indicators that identify targeted groups challenged with meeting their parental responsibilities. Once these targeted groups are identified, the program offers various services to meet their needs. Additionally, DCSS and LCSAs successfully partner with multiple state and local agencies to ensure program goals are achieved.

Weaknesses: DCSS serves a high percentage of needy families living below the federal poverty level. Our program population has significant barriers to obtaining employment and supporting their parental responsibility. Some of their barriers include: Incarceration, military service, being juvenile parents, or being undocumented parents.