2021 Child Support: More Money for Families

Collections*

In FY2021, the child support program collected **$32.7 billion**

66% of child support was collected by income withholding from an employee's paycheck

(34% other sources)

96% of child support collected went to families

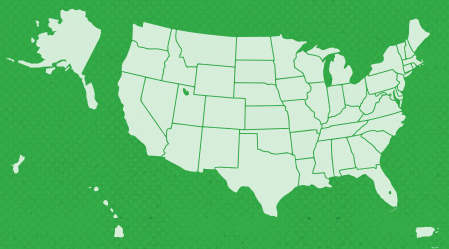
(4% reimbursed public assistance dollars)

The child support program served

13.2 million children

1 in 5 children in the U.S.

Child support nearly doubles the average income of recipients below the poverty line — lifting 750,000 people out of poverty**



Cost-Effectiveness

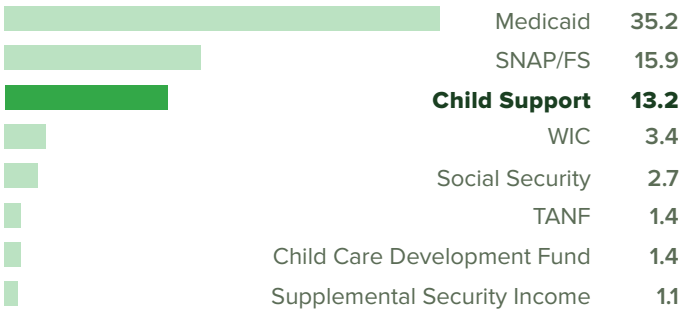
One of the most cost-effective government programs

$5.27

collected by the child support program for every **$1.00** spent

Caseload Comparison

Children served compared to other programs***



Source: Office of Child Support Enforcement

* Includes IV-D and non-IV-D payments.

** Bureau of Census: Current Population Reports P60-261 (Appendix Table 5) and P60-265 (Appendix Table A-7).

*** Combined CHIP Enrollment Total Report and Form CMS-64.EC, 2021; FY 2019 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation and Costs; WIC Program Monthly Data – State Level Participation, FY 2021; Social Security Annual Statistical Supplement, Dec. 2020; TANF: Total Number of Child Recipients, FY 2021; CCDF Preliminary Data Table 1, 2019; SSI Annual Statistical Report, 2020.

Administration for Children & Families
Office of Child Support Enforcement

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