



California
Department of
Child Support
Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2006

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STATE'S LEADERSHIP RECEIVES RECOGNITION

"Best Of California 2006" Highlights Staff from California's Statewide Child Support Automation System Project

SACRAMENTO – Staff responsible for the implementation of the nation's largest automated child support system were recognized today at the Government Technology Conference's "Best of California 2006" awards ceremony in Sacramento.

Dianne Koelzer, project director of the California Department of Child Support Services' (DCSS) California Child Support Automation System (CCSAS), and Carlos Zamarripa, CCSAS deputy project manager for the Franchise Tax Board (FTB), received an award for *Demonstrated Leadership in Management of Information Technology*.

"California's ability to implement the largest and most complex child support automation system is a model of how public agencies at the state and local levels work in tandem to improve the lives of children and families," said DCSS Director Greta Wallace. "We are very proud of Dianne and Carlos for working tirelessly to make CCSAS a reality."

Overseen by DCSS and managed by FTB, the CCSAS project has drawn on technical expertise from the state and private sectors, as well as from county child support professionals, to design and develop a system that meets federal requirements and encompasses the complexity of California's child support program. In its first year of operation, more than \$1.7 billion in child support payments to families was collected through the new system.

On September 20, 2006, California requested federal certification for CCSAS, signaling the state's compliance with federal automation and centralized payment processing requirements for child support payments and putting federal automation penalties on hold during the certification process. The federal certification review process is expected to begin in January 2007 and continue through 2008.

BACKGROUND

Federal law requires states to implement a single statewide automated child support system, including a single location for processing child support collections and payments for cases handled by local child support agencies and all child support wage withholding payments through employers.

The process encompassed folding 58 separate county systems into one unified system to meet federal requirements while providing new levels of service for California's families. When the system is federally certified, California will receive 90 percent of its 2006 penalty payment back from the federal government.

DCSS is responsible for ensuring effective implementation of all functions necessary to establish, collect and distribute child support for the child support program. In 2005, the state program collected \$2.3 billion and served more than two million children. Child support program services are delivered through 52 local child support agencies. For more information, log on to <http://www.childsup.ca.gov/>.

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