

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**

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# **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GOVERNOR RECOGNIZES AUGUST AS "CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH"***California's Child Support Program is an Essential Bridge To Security  
and Self-Sufficiency for More Than Two Million Children*

SACRAMENTO – Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger today issued a letter recognizing August 2005 as "Child Support Awareness Month" in California.

"Children are our most valuable resource, and Californians have a responsibility to promote and nurture their well-being," wrote the Governor. "California's child support program puts children first by promoting positive relationships, providing support services, enhancing stability and ensuring parents pay child support on a regular and timely basis."

California's Child Support Program believes that children have the right to be supported by both parents - financially, medically and emotionally. The program is committed to ensuring that California's children are given every opportunity to obtain these rights in a fair and consistent manner throughout the state. In 2004, the program collected \$2.4 billion and served more than two million children.

"Maximizing our ability to deliver quality child support services is one of our top priorities," said Greta Wallace, director of the Department of Child Support Services. "During Child Support Awareness Month, we will make a special effort to remind all Californians just how important it is to support children financially and emotionally."

The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is responsible for providing strong state leadership to ensure that all functions necessary to establish, collect and distribute child support are effectively and efficiently implemented. Program services are delivered through local child support agencies. Among the types of free services available to the public are:

- Locating a parent.
- Establishing paternity.
- Establishing, modifying and enforcing a court order for child support.
- Establishing, modifying and enforcing an order for health insurance coverage.
- Collecting and distributing child and spousal support payments.

Together with county child support agencies, DCSS will celebrate "Child Support Awareness Month" at a series of locally sponsored events and activities promoting the positive impacts of child support upon the lives of more than two million California children. For more information, log on to

<http://www.childsup.ca.gov/>.

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