



California  
Department of  
Child Support  
Services

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** T. Maria Caudill  
(916) 464-5188  
Cell (916) 798-0586

## **GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS AUGUST 2008 AS "CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH"**

### ***Our Youth Are Tomorrows Leaders – Paying Child Support Parents Invest In The Future***

SACRAMENTO – Today, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proclaimed August 2008 Child Support Awareness Month, reminding parents how important it is that they provide financial support for their children.

"Parents are responsible for giving their children the tools they need to succeed in life," stated Governor Schwarzenegger. "Child support helps make sure this responsibility is fulfilled. The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow, and it is vital that parents are investing in their futures."

"Child Support Awareness Month is an opportunity to celebrate all parents who actively support their children," added David Maxwell-Jolly, Director of the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS). "I commend every parent who works hard to meet their child support obligation – helping their children thrive. Everyday across California, our state and local child support staff help parents and guardians improve the lives of children."

Children have the right to be supported by both parents – financially, medically and emotionally. State and local child support program staff are committed to ensuring that California's children are given every opportunity to obtain these rights in a uniform manner throughout the state. In 2007, the program collected \$2.3 billion and served more than 1.8 million children.

Today, California's child support program is using new technology, expanding the ability of child support staff to assist child support customers. This new automation system makes it easier and faster to locate individuals and collect child support – reducing delays for families.

Families now have greater options - child support payments can be received via direct deposit or on an Electronic Payment Card (EPC) similar to an ATM card. Individuals making child support payments can make using the internet, or an automated phone-line. Soon, parents and guardians statewide will have twenty-four hour access to their account information, via the web and a toll-free phone-line, **Customer Connect**.

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Child support program services are delivered through a network of county and regional child support agencies that offer many services to parents at no cost, including providing assistance in locating a parent; establishing paternity; establishing, modifying and enforcing a court order for child support; and establishing, modifying and enforcing an order for health coverage.

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 1.8 million California children. For more information or to view DCSS' strategic plan, log on to [www.childsup.ca.gov](http://www.childsup.ca.gov)

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



**PROCLAMATION**

Parents are responsible for giving their children the tools they need to succeed in life. Through emotional and financial support, they help their kids grow and provide them with necessities to aid in their development. Child support helps make sure this responsibility is fulfilled.

By working together, federal, state and local government agencies are able to ensure that parents fulfill their child support obligations. In California, the Department of Child Support Services assisted 1.8 million children and families over the past year. The recently implemented California Child Support Automation System has streamlined the process by making it easier to locate parents, collect payments and encourage cooperation among different groups.

This month is a great opportunity to recognize the important role this program plays in giving our young ones the resources they need to learn and grow. The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow, and it is vital that parents are investing in their futures.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim August 2008, as "Child Support Awareness Month."

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 8th day of August 2008.



Handwritten signature of Arnold Schwarzenegger in black ink.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor of California

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Debra Bowen in black ink.

DEBRA BOWEN  
Secretary of State