

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

P.O. Box 419064, Sacramento, CA 95741-9064



December 21, 2000

CSS LETTER NO. 00-10

TO: ALL IV-D DIRECTORS
ALL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Reason for this Transmittal

- State Law or Regulation Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order or Settlement Change
- Clarification requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by DCSS

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM PERFORMANCE
STANDARDS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2001

Family Code Section 17602 requires the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) to adopt performance standards effective January 1, 2001, in consultation with local child support agencies and child support advocates. This letter sets out the specific performance standards that have been adopted. In accordance with that section, and after consultation with local child support agencies and child support advocates, the performance standards outlined in Family Code Section 17602 (a) are adopted as the state performance measures. In addition, the federal performance measures outlined in Section 458 (A) of the Social Security Act are also being adopted. This essentially follows the recommendations of the Policies, Procedures and Practices (P3) Performance Measures workgroup. The performance standards will be put into regulations effective July 1, 2001.

DCSS will track the performance measures and will use this information for establishing a baseline for county performance. At this point, neither incentives nor penalties will be tied to these performance standards. As required by Family Code Section 17602(e), the Director will submit quarterly reports to the Legislature, the Governor and the public on progress of all local child support agencies in each performance measure.

The performance standards are listed below. The first five are the federal measures and will be reported annually as of September 30th of each year. The remaining nine are state measures and will be reported quarterly. The attached matrix will further explain the formula used for each measure and how the state will gather the needed data for the analysis of the performance standards.

A. Federal Measures – Annual Reporting

1. Paternity establishment percentage

The “IV-D Paternity Establishment Percentage” measures the ratio of the total number of children in the IV-D caseload who have been born out-of-wedlock and for whom paternity has been established or acknowledged.

Paternity established or acknowledged includes voluntary acknowledgments (in California, POP declarations) and all types of orders, including court and administrative orders. Paternity can only be counted once, by either an acknowledgment or by an order.

2. Percent of cases with a child support order

This data element measures cases with support orders as compared with the total caseload. Support orders are broadly defined as all legally enforceable orders, including orders for health insurance, and zero support orders.

3. Current collections performance

This performance standard measures the amount of current support collected as compared to the total amount owed, expressed as a percentage.

4. Arrearage collections performance

This measure counts cases with child support arrearage collections as compared with cases owing arrearages.

Former Assistance cases, if some past-due support was owed to the family at the time of the collection, only count the case if some of the collection regardless of source was applied to past-due support and paid to the family. If no past due support was owed to the family at the time of the collection, count the case if the collection, regardless of source, was retained by the state.

5. Cost-effectiveness performance level

This measure compares the total amount of distributed collections to the total amount of expenditures for the fiscal year.

B. State Measures – Quarterly Reporting

1. Percent of cases with a court order for current support.

This performance standard measures the ratio of cases that have an order for current support established. This measure will not include medically needy only cases.

2. Percent of cases with collections for current support

This performance standard measures the ratio of cases in which at least one payment for current support has been collected during the reporting period as compared with cases due current support.

3. Average amount collected per case for all cases with collections

This performance standard measures the collections on a per case basis. This will be a reflection of the average collection for cases receiving some collections in the reporting period.

4. Percent of cases with an order for arrears

This performance standard measures the percentage of the cases within the caseload with arrears due. This measure excludes medically needy only cases.

5. Percent of cases with arrears collections

This measure counts cases with child support arrearage collections as compared with cases owing arrearages.

Former Assistance cases, if some past-due support was owed to the family at the time of the collection, only count the case if some of the collection regardless of source was applied to past-due support and paid to the family. If no past due support was owed to the family at the time of the collection, count the case if the collection, regardless of source, was retained by the state.

This measure is identical to federal measure number four above, but will be tracked quarterly.

6. Percent of alleged fathers or obligors who were served with a summons and complaint to establish paternity or a support order during the period.

This performance standard measures the total number of summons and complaints served for cases requiring services to establish paternity and/or a support order.

7. Percent of children for whom paternity has been established during the period

This performance standard measures the ratio of the total number of children in the caseload who have been born out-of-wedlock and for whom paternity has been established or acknowledged in the reporting period.

8. Percent of cases that had a support order established during the period

This performance standard measures the percentage of cases that had an order for support established during the reporting period as compared with the cases needing an order established.

9. Total child support dollars collected per \$1.00 of total expenditure.

This measure compares the total amount of distributed collections to the total amount of expenditures for the fiscal year.

This measure is identical to federal measure number five above, but will be tracked quarterly.

If you have questions concerning this letter, please contact Rick Stewart at (916) 464-5266.

Sincerely,

CURTIS L. CHILD
Director

Enclosure

Attachment I: Performance Measures Matrix

Measure	Federal Measure	State Measure	Formula	Data Source
<p><i>Federal 1</i></p> <p>Paternity establishment percentage</p>	<p>x</p>		<p><i>Total number of children born out-of-wedlock for whom paternity was acknowledged or established during the fiscal year</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Total number of children in the state born out-of-wedlock during the preceding fiscal year</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p><i>Total number of children in the caseload in the fiscal year (or as of the end of the fiscal year) for whom paternity was established or acknowledged</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Total number of children in the caseload as of the end of the preceding fiscal year who were born out-of-wedlock</i></p>	<p>CS157 quarterly</p> <p><u>Line 6</u> Data from vital statistics</p> <p>OR</p> <p>CS157</p> <p><u>Line 6</u> Line 5 (from the CS157 from the preceding year)</p>
<p><i>Federal 2</i></p> <p>Percent of cases with a child support order</p>	<p>x</p>		<p><i>Total number of cases with a support order at the end of the fiscal year</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Total number of open cases at the end of the fiscal year</i></p>	<p>CS157 quarterly</p> <p><u>Line 2</u> Line 1</p>

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Measure	Federal Measure	State Measure	Formula	Data Source
<p><i>Federal 3</i></p> <p>Percent of current support collected</p>	<p>x</p>		$\frac{\text{Total amount of current support distributed during the fiscal year}}{\text{Total amount of current support due during the fiscal year}}$	<p>CS157 quarterly</p> <p><u>Line 21</u> Line 20</p>
<p><i>Federal 4</i></p> <p>Percent of cases with arrearage collections</p>	<p>x</p>		$\frac{\text{Cases paying toward arrears during the fiscal year}}{\text{Cases with arrears due during the fiscal year}}$	<p>CS157 quarterly</p> <p><u>Line 26</u> Line 25</p>
<p><i>Federal 5</i></p> <p>Cost-effectiveness performance level</p>	<p>x</p>		$\frac{\text{Total amount of support distributed in the fiscal year}}{\text{Total amount expended during the fiscal year}}$	<p>CS800/820</p> <p>Column 1 Cell 39 (CS800) and Cell 25 (<u>CS820</u>)</p> <p>CS 356 Data</p>

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Measure	Federal Measure	State Measure	Formula	Data Source
<p><i>State 1</i></p> <p>Percent of cases with a court order for current support</p>		x	$\frac{\text{Total number of cases with current support due during the quarter}}{\text{Total number of cases open at the end of the quarter (excluding medically needy only cases)}}$	<p>CS157 quarterly</p> <p><u>Line 23</u> Line 1-Line 1c</p>
<p><i>State 2</i></p> <p>Percent of cases with collections of current support</p>		x	$\frac{\text{Cases paying toward current support during the quarter}}{\text{Cases with current support due during the quarter}}$	<p>CS157 quarterly</p> <p><u>Line 24</u> Line 23</p>
<p><i>State 3</i></p> <p>Average amount collected per case with collections</p>		x	$\frac{\text{Total amount of support collected as current support and arrears (quarter)}}{\text{Cases with collections during the quarter}}$	<p>CS820</p> <p><u>Line 12</u> CS157 quarterly Line 14</p>

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Measure	Federal Measure	State Measure	Formula	Data Source
<p><i>State 4</i></p> <p>Percent of cases with an order for arrears</p>		x	$\frac{\text{Number of cases with arrears due during the quarter}}{\text{Total number of cases open at the end of the quarter (excluding medically needy only cases)}}$	<p>CS157 quarterly</p> <p><u>Line 25</u> Line 1-Line 1c</p>
<p><i>State 5</i></p> <p>Percent of cases with arrears collections</p>	x	x	$\frac{\text{Cases paying toward arrears during the reporting period}}{\text{Cases with arrears due during the reporting period}}$	<p>CS157 quarterly</p> <p><u>Line 26</u> Line 25</p>

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Measure	Federal Measure	State Measure	Formula	Data Source
<p><i>State 6</i></p> <p>Percent of alleged fathers or obligors who were served with a summons and complaint to establish paternity or a support order during the period</p>		x	$\frac{\text{Number of alleged fathers and/or obligors successfully served with a summons and complaint during the quarter}}{\text{Cases open at the end of the quarter requiring services to establish an order and cases successfully served}}$	<p>CS157 quarterly</p> <p><u>Line 11</u> Line 8 and line 11</p>
<p><i>State 7</i></p> <p>Percent of children for whom paternity has been established during the period</p>		x	$\frac{\text{Number of children in the caseload with paternity established or acknowledged during the quarter}}{\text{Children requiring paternity determination services at the end of the quarter plus children with paternity established in the quarter}}$	<p>CS157 quarterly</p> <p><u>Line 12</u> Line 9 and line 12</p>

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Measure	Federal Measure	State Measure	Formula	Data Source
<p><i>State 8</i></p> <p>Percent of cases that had a support order established during the period</p>		x	$\frac{\text{Number of cases with a support order established during the quarter}}{\text{Cases open at the end of the quarter requiring services to establish an order plus cases with a support order established during the quarter}}$	<p>CS157 quarterly</p> <p><u>Line 13</u> Line 8 and Line 13</p>
<p><i>State 9</i></p> <p>Total child support dollars collected per \$1.00 of total expenditure (cost-effectiveness)</p>	x	x	$\frac{\text{Total amount of support distributed in the reporting period}}{\text{Total amount expended during the reporting period}}$	<p>CS800/820</p> <p>Column 1 Cell 39 (CS800) and Cell 25 (<u>CS820</u>)</p> <p>CS 356 Data</p>