



Child Support

If your children live with you most of the time and their other parent lives elsewhere, the non-resident parent may be required to pay child support to help with the expenses of raising your children. Your county Child Support Agency (CSA) provides many services, including getting child support for your children. Last year CSAs provided enforcement services to 352,000 Wisconsin households who received an average of \$144 per month in child support payments.

ELIGIBILITY

Am I Eligible For CSA Services?

ALL ADULTS who care for minor children and need paternity establishment or child support may seek assistance from their county Child Support Agency.

BENEFITS

What Services Does My CSA Offer?

YOUR LOCAL CSA can help you to:

- Find an absent parent;
- Establish your child's legal father;
- Get or change a child support order;
- Enforce child support orders;
- Get health insurance for your child from the nonresident parent.

There is no cost for these services if you are enrolled in FoodShare, Medical Assistance, Healthy Start, BadgerCare, W-2, or Wisconsin Shares Child Care Assistance. If you are not enrolled in these programs you will be charged a small fee depending on the services you request.

What Resources Does My CSA Have To Help Me?

CSAs HAVE many ways to find absent parents and identify their assets. CSAs can help both parents sign a paternity acknowledgement, or can work to establish paternity through a court process. If needed, they also have many ways to enforce court-ordered support including income withholding, contempt of court judgements, intercepting tax refunds, imposing property liens, seizing bank accounts and suspending licenses.

How Much Child Support Could My Children Receive?

CHILD SUPPORT is usually ordered as a dollar amount based on a percent of the non-custodial parent's pre-tax income: 17% for one child, 25% for two children, 29% for three children, 31% for four children, and 34% for five or more children. A court may adjust these amounts if the child lives with each parent at least 25% of the time (shared placement), or if each parent has placement of at least one child (split placement), or if the nonresident parent already pays child support to another household. You can ask for a change in the order if the nonresident parent's income changes. All W-2 families now receive all current child support paid on their behalf.

APPLICATION

How Do I Apply?

CHECK THE county or tribal government listings in the blue pages of your phone book for the number of your local Child Support Agency. Be ready to give information on yourself, your children, their non-resident parent, any existing support orders, and the services you need. More information is available online at www.dwd.state.wi.us/bcs/