



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 2020

Child Support Awareness Month

Life has changed drastically for Californians amid the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Caregivers and parents became homeschool teachers, sports were postponed, and vacations were canceled. Families are stepping up to adapt to unprecedented challenges - adhering to stay-at-home orders and practicing social distancing - and saving thousands of lives in the process.

With families across the state struggling during these difficult and uncertain times, Child Support Awareness Month underscores the critical importance of supporting families and connecting them with the vital resources they need to get by. Prioritizing flexibility and assistance, 49 county and regional child support agencies across the state offer a range of services and resources to assist parents in caring for their children. Child support agencies, too, have adapted to the pandemic by working to improve customer service while observing social distancing to protect public health, including the promotion of eSign for court documents, the reprioritization of payments to families, and increased outreach on order modification.

California families have become more diverse, and as our notions of what makes a family have changed, so too has the framework of child support. Successful single-parent families, blended families, and a generation of children who are now successful parents themselves have been positively influenced by child support programs in their communities.

It is said that it takes a village to raise a child. I am proud that in California, nobody has to go it alone. During Child Support Awareness Month, I encourage Californians to celebrate the strength and endurance of all families, in every shade, shape, and size.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a white background.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of the State of California