



DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY



California Child Support Automation System (CCSAS) Annual Summary 2016

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 1999, California enacted Assembly Bill 150 (Aroner), Chapter 479, Statutes of 1999. The legislation directed the California Health and Human Services Agency and the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) to develop, implement, maintain, and operate a new statewide child support system. As a result, the California Child Support Automation System (CCSAS) Project was initiated in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2003-04 to establish a single statewide child support system that automates and centralizes all child support activities such as: establishing paternity; obtaining, enforcing, and modifying child support orders; locating absent parents; and collecting and disbursing support payments. By December 2008, all county Local Child Support Agency (LCSA) operations were consolidated into CCSAS. The system became fully operational and in January of 2014, California concluded the project through the Post Implementation Evaluation Report process.

CCSAS consists of two major components: the State Disbursement Unit (SDU) and the Child Support Enforcement (CSE) system. The SDU collects, processes, and distributes all child support payments. The CSE provides a central database and case management system to support child support enforcement activities at all LCSAs.

Per Family Code Section 17561, beginning in 2010, the California Department of Technology and DCSS shall submit an annual report by March 1 of each year to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature on the ongoing implementation of CCSAS. The report shall include all of the following components:

- (a) Clear breakdown of funding elements for past, current, and future years (Sec. 2).
- (b) Descriptions of active functionalities and a description of their usefulness in child support collections by local child support agencies (Sec. 3).
- (c) Review of current considerations relative to federal law and policy (Sec. 4).
- (d) Policy narrative on future, planned changes to CCSAS and how those changes will advance activities for workers, collections for the state, and payments for recipient families (Sec. 6).

Consistent with this statute, DCSS and the California Department of Technology have developed this 2016 CCSAS Annual Summary Report.

2. FUNDING

Federal and state funding for CCSAS was first approved in SFY 2003-04 to initiate system development. In December 2008, California received federal certification of CCSAS, successfully concluding the state's efforts to create a single uniform system. CCSAS continues to receive 66 percent Federal Financial Participation (FFP) and 34 percent State General Fund (GF) to support required Maintenance and Operations (M&O) activities.

The SFY 2015-16 CCSAS budget included the following adjustments:

- Staffing Shift – Contract dollars for CSE M&O Staffing Services were reduced by \$4,910,000; and state staff and operational expenses were increased by \$4,562,000 to transition contract M&O resources to permanent state civil service positions.
- Staffing Costs – An increase of \$954,000 for higher retirement contribution rates and \$1,856,000 for higher employee compensation rates.

Table 1 CCSAS CSE Project Cost Categories

Below are definitions for the cost categories shown in Table 2 of this report.

COST CATEGORY	DEFINITION
Development	Development costs include: significant application software changes such as the redesign of a child support system's enforcement module; implementation of new electronic interfaces; development of a graphical user interface to replace character based user interfaces; installation of a document imaging component to the system; and application system migration from a mainframe-based architecture to a client server-architecture.
Operations	Operations costs include: state staff, operational expenses, and contract services to provide an operating environment that meets the availability and reliability requirements that are critical to the child support program. Operations activities include: production oversight, problem management, configuration and asset management, network and system administration, host and desktop hardware and software refresh, application modifications and testing, user help desk, central print and imaging, technical infrastructure and architectural support, Enterprise Customer Service Solution (ECSS) support, and application hosting.
Local Technical Support	Local Technical Support costs include: LCSA staff, operational expenses, and contract support costs to support local networks and desktop infrastructures.

Table 2 CCSAS CSE Project Costs

The table below reflects the total CCSAS CSE actual and projected costs through SFY 2016-17.

TASKS	ACTUAL 2003/04 - 2012/13	BUDGET SFY 2013/14	BUDGET SFY 2014/15	BUDGET SFY 2015/16	PROPOSED BUDGET SFY 2016/17	TOTAL
Development	902,073,292	-	-	-	-	\$ 902,073,292
Operations	492,961,394	68,705,620	69,810,366	71,072,439	71,202,440	\$ 773,752,259
Local Technical Support	643,218,642	35,007,994	35,007,994	35,007,994	35,007,994	\$ 783,250,618
TOTAL CSE Costs	\$ 2,038,253,328	\$ 103,713,614	\$ 104,818,360	\$ 106,080,433	\$ 106,210,434	\$ 2,459,076,169

Table 3 CCSAS SDU Project Costs

The table below reflects the total CCSAS SDU actual and projected costs through SFY 2016-17.

BUDGET CATEGORY	ACTUAL 2004/05 - 2012/13	BUDGET SFY 2013/14	BUDGET SFY 2014/15	BUDGET SFY 2015/16	PROPOSED BUDGET SFY 2016/17	TOTAL
One-Time Costs						
State Administration	12,406,977	-	-	-	-	\$ 12,406,977
SDU SP Services	32,866,965	-	-	-	-	\$ 32,866,965
Subtotal	\$ 45,273,942	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,273,942
Continuing Costs						
SDU - LCSA	8,341,110	-	-	-	-	\$ 8,341,110
SDU - SP Services	179,125,247	-	-	-	-	\$ 179,125,247
SDU - State	3,450,574	14,966,000	14,966,000	14,966,000	14,966,000	\$ 63,314,574
Subtotal	\$ 190,916,931	\$ 14,966,000	\$ 14,966,000	\$ 14,966,000	\$ 14,966,000	\$ 250,780,931
TOTAL SDU COST	\$ 236,190,873	\$ 14,966,000	\$ 14,966,000	\$ 14,966,000	\$ 14,966,000	\$ 296,054,873

1. Actual Costs through 2007-08 from SDU Post-Implementation Evaluation Report; actual expenses SFY 2008-09 and beyond from CalStars.

2. Beginning in SFY 2013-14, DCSS' Subvention Tables rolled all SDU costs onto one line. This table has been updated to reflect the change.

3. SYSTEM FUNCTIONALITY

This section lists and describes CCSAS functions that positively impact worker effectiveness, customer service, and program performance within the Child Support Program.

3.1 Worker Effectiveness

- Statewide Access to Data: Regardless of their geographic location, caseworkers can view data for any case or case member. Case transfers occur within the system with minimal manual effort increasing the time caseworkers have available to provide customer service and increase program performance.
- Electronic Storage/Retrieval of Documents: On average, each month, DCSS Central Scan receives and uploads 175,000 pages of county case documents into CSE for caseworkers. This effort enables county personnel to focus on collection and enforcement duties, and continues to reduce the need for physical storage space within DCSS and county offices.

In August 2014, DCSS began a project to implement a local scanning process with LCSAs. Full implementation of the local scan project is expected to be complete in March 2016. As a result of this program, shipping from the LCSAs is reduced therefore improving security, decreasing shipping costs, and making information available electronically to CSE caseworkers sooner.

- E-Filing with California Courts: CSE functionality provides a standard interface with the courts to provide the capability to transmit forms electronically; including some of the most frequently used forms (e.g., Summons and Complaints, Amended Proposed Judgments, Defaults and Proofs of Service). E-Filing saves substantial time for caseworkers as well as court personnel.

Currently, there are eleven counties utilizing e-Filing for one or more available form sets: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Stanislaus, Santa Barbara, and Solano. DCSS is actively working with e-filing counties to help get them all to full capacity. DCSS is also working with additional courts to expand the use of e-Filing.

In addition, DCSS implemented Electronic Correspondence e-mail Case Update Notifications (e-Correspondence) in January 2015 to provide child support participants with the option of accessing documents online and receiving courtesy e-mail notifications for appointments and payments instead of receiving documents through traditional mail. E-Correspondence improves worker effectiveness and enhances customer service.

3.2 Customer Service

- The Enterprise Customer Service Solution (ECSS) is comprised of the Self-Service Website and the statewide Automated Phone System.
 - Self-Service Website: The Self-Service Website provides a single point of access for customers to have more than just payment information at their fingertips. After entering their user login information, customers can access case-specific information as well as information regarding payments made by non-custodial parents and payments sent to custodial parties. This is done over a secured connection and does not require the customer to speak to a child support representative. If customers wish to communicate with a representative, they are able to communicate confidentially through the website and email responses are provided within 48 business hours. Customers can also update their contact information and obtain information about appointments. DCSS has seen an increase in customers using the Self-Service Website. During calendar year 2015 (January through September), the Self-Service Website was visited approximately 7.6 million times, averaging approximately 842,000 log-ins per month. This is an increase of approximately 61,000 log-ins per month, or 8 percent, compared to 2014.
 - Automated Phone System: The Automated Phone System is a single statewide Interactive Voice Response (IVR) phone system that enables all customers to authenticate and quickly obtain information about their child support case through its self-service capabilities or, if requested by the customer, they can transfer to a county or state representative for assistance. The IVR received 4.8 million calls in SFY 2014-15. Approximately 1.8 million calls were resolved by the self-service IVR and approximately 3 million were forwarded to a program representative.

Shared call centers are a cost effective option for LCSAs to focus resources and provide LCSAs with options for improving consistent service delivery. In addition, the ECSS statewide platform supports the department's disaster recovery and business continuity efforts and ensures services can be delivered in times of local outages or emergencies.
- Mobile Web and Mobile App: DCSS introduced a Mobile App in June 2013 to allow convenient mobile access to our Self-Service Website for customers. In December 2015, approximately 79 percent of all transactions on DCSS' Self-Service Website occurred on a mobile device (smartphone or tablet). Customers are able to access account and payment information, and find county information to frequently asked questions using the Mobile App. Since its introduction, the Mobile App has had 112,000 total downloads as of September 30, 2015; of the total downloads, 75,000 were to Android devices and 37,000 were to Apple devices.

- **Electronic Payments and Disbursements:** Electronic payments and disbursements are faster, more accurate and less expensive to process than paper checks. With CCSAS, non-custodial parents and employers are able to make one-time or recurring payments by electronic debit from a checking or savings account, or with a Visa or MasterCard branded debit or credit card. The SDU provides both credit card and bank account online payment options over the Internet and via telephone using the SDU toll-free number. Electronic disbursements include an electronic prepaid debit card with payments going directly to the customer's card account and direct deposit with payments directly deposited to a customer's savings or checking account. Total combined electronic collections and disbursements increased from 14 percent in SFY 2005-06 to 75 percent in SFY 2014-15.
- **Additional Payment Options:** In the past year, DCSS implemented two new child support payment options: MoneyGram and PayNearMe. These new payment options are beneficial for our customers who are unable to submit checks to the SDU or make electronic payments online or over the telephone.

Effective February 2015, DCSS implemented MoneyGram as an option for non-custodial parents to make child support payments at 6,200 retail locations throughout California. MoneyGram is a money transfer company that processes cash or debit card payments, reducing the need for customers to travel to a local child support office. As of December 2015, 20,687 payments have been made via MoneyGram totaling \$5,174,000 in collections.

The second payment option, PayNearMe, was implemented in August 2015. Like MoneyGram, PayNearMe is a money transfer company that accepts cash child support payments, reducing the need for customers to travel to a child support office. PayNearMe is available at 7-Eleven locations throughout California. As of December 2015, 3,710 payments have been made via PayNearMe totaling \$766,000 in collections.

DCSS continues to explore other options for our customers. All current payment options are listed

at: [https://www.childsup.ca.gov/payments/statedisbursementunit\(sdu\).aspx](https://www.childsup.ca.gov/payments/statedisbursementunit(sdu).aspx)

3.3 Program Performance

DCSS is committed to continuously monitoring, measuring, and evaluating its performance in order to improve California's Child Support Program. DCSS receives a portion of its funding from the federal government based on an incentive system implemented under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. In order to qualify for these federal incentive payments, California's Child Support Program must achieve or exceed performance thresholds in key areas. If the program performance fails to meet minimal standards, California may lose vital federal incentives and face financial penalties.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 data continues to exceed minimum thresholds and reflect California's strong results in the federal performance measures:

- Paternity Establishment Percentage: The Statewide Paternity Establishment Percentage (PEP) measure for California in FFY 2015 was 98.0 percent. California has a continuing commitment to ensure all children have parentage established. Statewide PEP measures the total number of children born out-of-wedlock for whom paternity was acknowledged or established during the FFY compared to the total number of children born out-of-wedlock during the previous FFY. The alternate paternity measure, IV-D PEP measured 102.0 percent for FFY 2015. The IV-D PEP measures the total number of children, in cases falling under the purview of Part D of Title IV of the Social Security Act (IV-D), who have been born out-of-wedlock and for whom paternity has been established, compared to the total number of children in the IV-D caseload at the end of the preceding fiscal year that were born out-of-wedlock.
- Percent of Cases with a Child Support Order: California's performance increased to 89.4 percent, an improvement of 0.2 percentage points over the previous year, and an all-time high for the California Child Support Program. This measure compares the number of child support cases with support orders compared to total caseload.
- Current Collections Performance: California's performance increased to 66.5 percent in FFY 2015, an improvement of 1.6 percentage points over the previous year. California has continued to improve each year in this measure since FFY 2000. This measure compares the amount of current support collected to the total amount of current support owed.
- Arrearage Collections Performance: California's performance increased in FFY 2015 to 66.2 percent, an increase of 0.4 percentage points over the previous year, and an all-time high for the California Child Support Program. This measure has improved each year since FFY 2004. This measure compares the number of cases with child support arrearage collections to the total number of cases owing arrearages during the FFY.
- Cost Effectiveness: California's cost effectiveness increased in FFY 2015 to \$2.51, an increase of \$0.08 over the previous year. This measure compares the total amount of distributed collections to the total amount of expenditures for the FFY. This comparison is expressed as the ratio of distributed collections per one dollar of expenditure.

4. LAW AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Changes to state and federal law often result in amendments to the Child Support Program. Occasionally, these amendments also result in changes to the CCSAS system.

4.1 Data Reliability Audits

Pursuant to Section 452(a)(4)(C)(i) of the Social Security Act, the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement is required to conduct annual audits to assess the completeness, reliability, and security of system data as well as the accuracy of reporting for state child support enforcement systems. States are required to meet a 95 percent data reliability standard in specified performance indicators. California passed the FFY 2014 audit in April 2015.

4.2 Changes in Law and Policy

The Governor signed legislation for the 2015 session related to child support services that affect either the SDU or CSE components of CCSAS.

- Assembly Bill 610 (Chapter 629, Statutes of 2015) authorizes the suspension of all child support orders due for incarcerated or involuntarily institutionalized obligors, as specified. This bill authorized LCSAs to administratively adjust child support arrears owed to zero provided no objection is received from either parent; otherwise a motion will need to be filed with the courts. Potential impacts to CSE include changes to existing forms, the creation of new forms, and a possible interface between CSE and each California court. DCSS and the Judicial Council are required to submit a report on effectiveness of the administrative process on or before January 1, 2019. The statute will sunset January 1, 2020 unless a new statute is enacted to extend the date. This statute was effective October 8, 2015.
- Assembly Bill 1519 (Chapter 416, Statutes of 2015) clarified the level of liability DCSS is responsible for under federal law the Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) Act, providing DCSS with protections when the recipient directs child support payments into an account that does not meet certain requirements. The bill allowed LCSAs to electronically store documents signed under penalty of perjury that are electronically filed with the court. This provision would result in changes to the CSE system to accommodate the categorization of a legal document by July 1, 2016. This statute was effective January 1, 2016.
- Senate Bill 79 (Chapter 20, Statutes of 2015) as a budget trailer bill, modified provisions related to different state programs. Some highlights include:
 - Eliminated California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) provisions for a child eligible for the Approved Relative Caregiver Funding Option Program.
 - Incentive payments from DCSS to LCSAs will be suspended through the 2016-17 fiscal year.

- Senate Bill 646 (Chapter 493, Statutes of 2015) adopts the Uniform Intrastate Family Support Act (UIFSA) of 2008, as mandated by federal law. The bill incorporated the provisions of the 2007 Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance (Hague Convention) providing uniform procedures for the processing of international child support cases. These provisions impact existing state laws for the registration, recognition, enforcement, and modification of foreign support orders from other countries that are parties to the Hague Convention. CSE will require system changes to implement the requirements identified in the UIFSA.

4.3 Guideline Calculator Mandates

Annual updates to the Guideline Calculator address changes in state and federal tax laws and related requirements. The counties and courts are required by federal law to use the Guideline Calculator to calculate child support order amounts. State rules and regulations require the Guideline Calculator certification to be renewed each year for the period of April 1 through March 31.

5. TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS

Although CCSAS has been in M&O since October 2011, technology continues to evolve as do the needs of the families we serve and the partners we work with. DCSS is still making strides in technology to improve the child support program.

One example is the Virtual Interactive Online Application (VIOLA) that was implemented on December 6, 2015. VIOLA is an online interactive self-service application that automatically begins case initiation activities. VIOLA is designed to provide an improved consumer experience for customers who request child support services. It has a modern, non-governmental design that is accessible via a desktop computer, laptop, or a mobile device. Not only does this new application improve communication with customers, it increases caseworker effectiveness by providing more accurate, timely and usable program data that is automatically populated into CSE.

The Federally Assisted State Transmitted (FAST) Levy Interface was implemented November 15, 2015. The FAST Levy electronic portal process allows states and Financial Institutions to exchange levy information associated with the Multi-State Financial Institution Data Match (MSFIDM). This process will eliminate paper levies and responses. It will increase the efficiency of identifying participant accounts and sending enforcement actions.

6. PLANNED SYSTEM CHANGES

Throughout M&O, DCSS will continue system improvements for corrective, preventive, and adaptive changes that keep the services and system focused on continued effective and efficient case management. The changes will improve the overall efficiencies of CCSAS to meet customer service needs.

DCSS is currently conducting a holistic evaluation of the CSE system. The assessment includes: system performance, infrastructure and business processes, and organizational structure that supports the system. Once the final assessment is complete, DCSS will analyze the recommendations and prioritize necessary changes to our systems.