

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** John Casalino
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: Backfill State/Federal/Grant

Executive Summary

The Multnomah County District Attorney’s Support Enforcement Division (SED) establishes, modifies and enforces paternity, child support and medical support orders for the families of Multnomah County as part of the Oregon Child Support Program (OCSP) by working with both parents to provide the financial and emotional and culturally specific support their children need to grow and thrive. OCSP delegates the authority of non-public assistance cases to county district attorney offices. These child support payments are essential for promoting equitable outcomes and helping struggling members of the community provide for their children and families.

Program Summary

The Child Support Enforcement (CSE) Program, operated by the Support Enforcement Division (SED), was enacted in 1975 as a federal-state-local partnership. The federal government reimburses each state 66% of all allowable expenditures on CSE activities, including staffing costs. The federal government’s funding is open-ended in that it pays its percentage of expenditures by matching the amounts spent by state and local governments with no upper limit or ceiling.

Operating in two locations (downtown and East County), the SED routinely carries an average caseload of approximately 7,500 cases and collects approximately \$31-\$33 million annually. Every dollar collected (less a \$25 annual fee after \$500 collected) is sent directly to custodial parents for the benefit of the children in the community, providing a critical safety net for families.

Implemented in 2019, a modernized statewide child support computer conversion provides SED with a more automated system to establish, modify and enforce support orders which result in payments benefiting over 10,000 children in the community. While seeking accountability from parents ordered to pay support, SED also works to reduce barriers for those who are unable to meet their obligations by working with the courts to refer parents for job placement, addiction evaluations and appropriate mental health services. This support is crucial to overcome system barriers and move towards more equitable outcomes for members of the community

SED works with all 50 states, local tribes, and US territories to cooperatively provide child support services. In addition, OCSP and CSE have reciprocity agreements with over 30 foreign nations.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Average number of Families (cases) assisted each month	7,584	7,900	7,584	7,584
Outcome	Dollars of child support collected (in millions)	\$33	\$31	\$33	\$31

Performance Measures Descriptions

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Per ORS 25.080, the District Attorney's Office provides support services by application to 1) a child support recipient who lives in Multnomah County 2) a child support recipient who lives out of state but the obligating party lives in Multnomah County or 3) both the obligating party and support order are in Multnomah County. Cases may remain in the District Attorney caseload for the duration of the support order and until all arrears are paid in full. ORS 416.415 (paternity); ORS 416.425, (modifying support orders); ORS 416.429, (establish and enforce arrearages)

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$762,760	\$2,362,866	\$835,819	\$2,408,244
Contractual Services	\$0	\$10,000	\$3,400	\$6,600
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$52,650	\$19,006	\$36,894
Internal Services	\$223,559	\$782,924	\$170,182	\$890,512
Total GF/non-GF	\$986,319	\$3,208,440	\$1,028,407	\$3,342,250
Program Total:	\$4,194,759		\$4,370,657	
Program FTE	4.51	21.09	4.98	20.62

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$3,178,496	\$0	\$3,302,250
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$29,944	\$0	\$40,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$3,208,440	\$0	\$3,342,250

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$560,157 in indirect revenues.

\$170,209 State General Fund

\$386,024 Federal Incentives

\$40,000 Program Fees (collected in the prior fiscal year and brought forward as Beginning Working Capital)

\$2,746,017 Federal Reimbursement

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 15104 Child Support Enforcement

Collections have increased this year to the highest ever--over \$33 million. This has allowed SED to get more funds directly into the hands of struggling parents so they could provide housing, clothing, food and other essentials for their children. SED has proven that it can adapt to a remote work environment and provide the highest level of service to Multnomah County families. SED aims to serve families in a way that promotes equity and engagement to parents in supporting their children financially and emotionally.

State funding reduction of \$26,127 is backfilled using county general funds and results in a partial FTE shift from Other Funds to General Fund