

Department: District Attorney

Program Contact: Glen Banfield

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
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 Description

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 Child Support Enforcement (CSE) activities, including staffing costs. The federal government's funding pays its percentage of expenditures by matching the amounts spent by state and local governments with no upper limit or ceiling.

SED operates in two locations, the central courthouse in downtown Portland and the East County Courthouse. A modernized statewide child support computer conversion provides SED with a more automated system to establish, modify and enforce support orders, benefiting over 10,000 children in the community. Every dollar collected (less a \$35 annual fee after \$550 collected) is sent directly to custodial parents for the benefit of the children in the community, providing a critical safety net for families. While seeking accountability, 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.

SED is also a partner in the Child Support Deferred Sentencing (CSDS) Program. Created in 2022, the CSDS Program is the first child support treatment court created in Oregon. The program uses a team approach to meet the needs of participants and focuses on stabilization, accountability, and lasting employment—with the goal of increased and continuous support for their children. The program collaborates with community partners such as Central City Concern, CODA, the Rosewood Initiative, SE Works, VOA, and others. SED also works with all 50 states, local tribes, and US territories to cooperatively provide child support services. In addition, OCSP has reciprocity agreements with over 30 foreign nations.

Performance Measures

| Measure Type | Performance Measure | FY23 Actual | FY24 Budgeted | FY24 Estimate | FY25 Target |
|--------------|--|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Output | Average number of families (cases) assisted each month | 5,864 | 5,900 | 5,500 | 5,500 |
| Outcome | Dollars of child support collected (in millions) | \$26.7 | \$27 | \$25.4 | \$25.5 |

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 | Adopted General Fund | Adopted Other Funds |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Program Expenses | 2024 | 2024 | 2025 | 2025 |
| Personnel | \$809,194 | \$2,467,762 | \$918,981 | \$2,615,307 |
| Contractual Services | \$0 | \$7,700 | \$21,328 | \$41,382 |
| Materials & Supplies | \$20,410 | \$52,990 | \$19,210 | \$54,190 |
| Internal Services | \$196,427 | \$969,519 | \$177,642 | \$1,055,584 |
| Total GF/non-GF | \$1,026,031 | \$3,497,971 | \$1,137,161 | \$3,766,463 |
| Program Total: | \$4,524,002 | | \$4,903,624 | |
| Program FTE | 4.44 | 19.16 | 5.03 | 18.97 |

| Program Revenues | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Intergovernmental | \$0 | \$3,461,690 | \$0 | \$3,728,963 |
| Beginning Working Capital | \$0 | \$36,281 | \$0 | \$37,500 |
| Total Revenue | \$0 | \$3,497,971 | \$0 | \$3,766,463 |

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$725,227 in indirect revenues.

Federal Through State (66%) Program Reimbursement = \$3,120,527

State (Direct) General Fund = \$195,576

Federal Through State Incentives Fund = \$410,436

State Program Fees (collected in the prior fiscal year and brought forward as Beginning Working Capital) = \$37,500

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2024: 15104 Child Support Enforcement