

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS WITH CHILD SUPPORT AND FATHERHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Importance of Establishing Relationships, Parentage and the
Addressing the Cycle of Debt



Evolution of Child Support

Historically a Process and Collection Focused Model

Currently Moving Toward a Family Focused Approach

What Services Can Lead Toward Regular Consistent Payments?

Partnerships with Parenting and Employment Service Providers are Key to Success

Early Intervention – “The Journey – A Parent’s Voice”: A blended parenting and employment services program

Early Challenges

Lack of Engagement – 70% No Show Rate for Genetic Testing

Cases with the Most Debt Start with Unengaged / Non Participating Parents

Paternity Is Established by Default; Support Orders Often Use Imputed Income

Importance of “Showing Up”

How do you Change the Perception of the Child Support Program?

BACKGROUND AND ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DEBT



2017 Child Support Guidelines Review: Report to the General Assembly

- HB 366 Guidelines Bill Incorporates a **Self-Sufficiency Reserve (SSR)** – this provision in the guidelines addresses inequities contained in the previous version of the guidelines tables and is now required by federal regulations
 - A study conducted by the Urban Institute used quarterly wage information to compare the accrual of arrears to obligor income. An extract of the data and conclusions from the study, that were specific to Ohio, found that 69% of arrears accrued were owed by individuals with no reported income or reported income less than \$10,000.
 - An SSR is an adjustment of the guideline support obligation amount to ensure that an obligor can maintain at least a subsistence income. The SSR is the primary means of addressing the phenomenon of arrears accrual among low-income obligors who are willing to pay their support obligation, but are unable to do so based on their income.



BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DEBT



Advisory Council Report: Impact of Support Calculations on Available Income

- The Advisory Council Report contains a table developed by ODJFS to show the impact of support calculations on available income and why low-income obligors accumulate the largest proportion of arrears of any income group. Paying parents who have higher gross incomes have sufficient net income remaining each month to pay their support obligations and maintain self-sufficiency; lower income payors typically do not. For example:
- A Paying Parent with two (2) children:

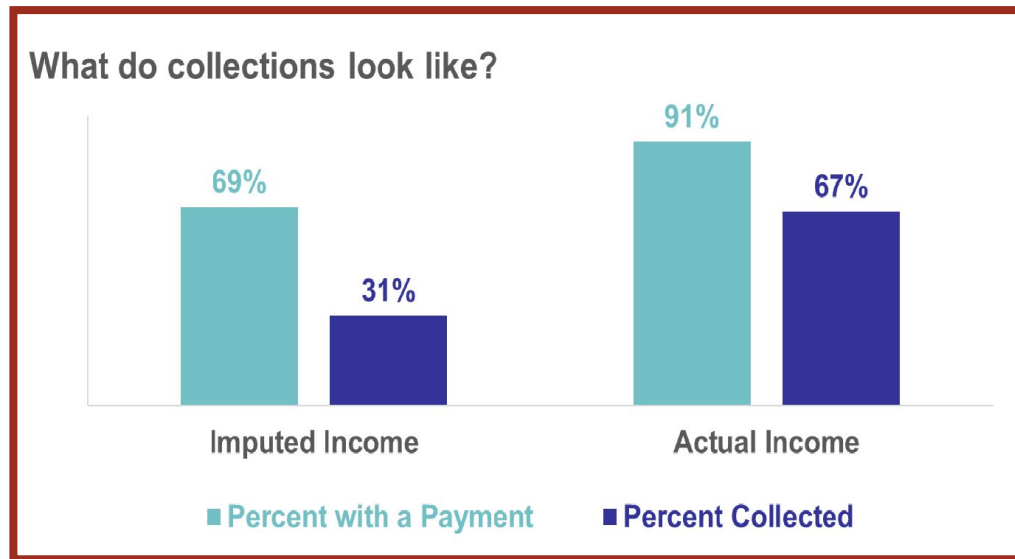
Annual Income:	\$16,848 (both Mom and Dad)
<u>Tax and Housing Cost:</u>	<u>\$12,961</u>
After Tax and Housing Income:	\$3,887
Annual Child Support (\$364 mo.)	<u>\$4,368</u>
Annual Income Remaining	-\$481

(This calculation does not take into account household expenditures such as food, utilities, transportation, clothing or medical costs.)

- HB 366 would reduce the CS order to \$150 /month and provide \$2,087 paying parent annual income after housing, taxes and child support.



THE BIGGER ISSUE



Child Support Research: The Maryland Partnership, Letitia Passarella, Research Director
University of Maryland School of Social Work

Parents Who Fail to Show for Genetic Testing or Support Hearings:

- Paternity is Established by Default
- Support Orders are Established Using Available Information or Imputed Income
- The Paying Parent has no Voice – Orders Are Set with Little or No Information



BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DEBT -OUTREACH

CHILD SUPPORT PARTNERSHIPS ARE CRITICAL

- **ENGAGEMENT:** To emphasize the importance of establishing paternity through genetic testing and encouraging more parent-provided information to inform order amounts – **JUST SHOW UP!**
 - Increased Interaction - Speaking through the voices of community partners can help top change the perception of the program.
- **PARENTING PARTNERSHIPS** – Increases the success of the child and emphasizes the need for holistic (the big picture) parental responsibility
- **EMPLOYMENT SERVICES** - The importance of career services – understanding the importance of earnings and career potential. Earning enough to just “get by” ultimately has a quality of life impact on both the paying parent and their children.



Franklin County Partners: Columbus Urban League; Action for Children; Goodwill; Jewish Family Services and Others

