

Child Support in Michigan: Facts & Figures

County and state child support offices in Michigan provide services for more than 839,000 children and their families. Anyone can request services from the child support program by completing an application. All families who receive public assistance are required to cooperate with the child support program to establish paternity and child support orders. The mission of the Michigan Child Support Program is to achieve the well-being of children and self-sufficiency of families by delivering consistent, innovative and holistic services. These services promote healthy relationships between parents and children and ensure parents fulfill their financial obligations to their children.

(Federal fiscal year 2019 data is used in this fact sheet unless otherwise indicated.)



m i c h i g a n
child support

We provide services for more than 839,000 Michigan children and their families.

Paternity for children

- 497,954 children born outside of marriage have a Michigan child support case.
- 91.2 percent of children born out of wedlock in Michigan had paternity established.

Demographic information

- The Michigan Child Support Program served 839,204 children on 803,941 child support cases.
- 79.9 percent of Michigan child support cases have an order requiring a parent to pay support.

Collections for children

- The Michigan Child Support Program collected and paid out \$1.32 billion in child support, with \$1.17 billion sent to families. The remaining \$150 million was paid to the state for reimbursement of public assistance.
- 71.4 percent of support was paid in the month it was due. Collections of child support paid in the month when due totaled \$969.2 million.
- The child support program collected an average of \$215 per child per month for those who were owed support.

Child support debt

- Cumulative past-due child support, or arrears, owed as of Sept. 30, 2019, was about \$4.86 billion.
- About \$330 million was paid on child support debt. More than 65 percent of cases in arrears received an arrears payment during the year.
- The average debt owed in cases with child support debt was \$9,248.

For every \$1 spent on the Michigan Child Support Program, we collected \$5.33 in support for Michigan's children.

We collected a total of \$1.32 billion to support Michigan's children.

Program funding: By the numbers

The federal government pays 66 percent of eligible state and county costs. The federal performance incentives paid by the federal government are based on disbursed collections and five performance factors. Michigan estimates it will receive approximately \$25.8 million for fiscal year 2019, and is the 6th highest state in incentives received. The federal performance incentives are shared between the counties and the state to continue their important work in child support.

Sources:

OCSE Preliminary Data Report 2019
OCSE-157 FY19 Report
OCSE-34 FY19 Report
OCSE-396 FY19 Report
Michigan Child Support Enforcement System
SCAO-41

Collections and enforcement methods

- **Income withholding.** A total of \$1.06 billion was collected by employers withholding child support from parents' paychecks.
- **New hire reporting.** Each month, employers reported an average of 219,107 newly hired staff. New hire reporting provides information for child support location and enforcement efforts.
- **Income tax refund intercepts.** Through income tax refund intercepts, \$71.6 million (5.4 percent of all collections) was collected. About 86 percent of intercepts were from federal returns; 14 percent were from state returns.
- **Financial Institution Data Match.** A total of \$9.14 million was collected by freezing or seizing financial assets.
- **License suspension.** In calendar year 2018, there were more than 2,500 driver's license suspensions for failing to pay child support or meeting parenting time orders. This method is used only after other attempts have failed.
- **Other enforcement methods.** Parents who do not comply with child support orders may also be denied approval or renewal of their passport, reported to a credit bureau, subject to a civil contempt proceeding or charged with a felony.

Service delivery

- The Michigan Child Support Enforcement System, Michigan's computer system, supports the work of 2,108 county and state workers in providing child support services.
- The Michigan State Disbursement Unit (MiSDU), Michigan's centralized collection and payment processor, disbursed approximately \$122.2 million each month.
- Approximately 49.3 percent of the collections paid out by the MiSDU are directly deposited into checking or savings accounts; 38.9 percent of collections are deposited on a U.S. Bank ReliaCard Visa debit card.
- OCS child support specialists answer an average of 7,952 calls each month, obtaining information for case initiation and providing parents with information about child support.
- On average, visits to the MiChildSupport secure website exceed 600,000 monthly. With about 138,000 active users, parents can use this site to view their case information and apply for child support. The site URL is Michigan.gov/MiChildSupport.
- Child support information for parents, employers, hospitals and schools is located on the MDHHS website: Michigan.gov/ChildSupport. This includes brochures, a high school curriculum, guides, etc.