

# Department of Child Support Services

## MISSION

*Connecting with parents and caregivers to provide child support services.*

## MANDATORY & MAJOR DUTIES

- Establish parentage, child and/or medical support orders
- Enforce child, medical, and in some cases spousal support orders
- Locate the Noncustodial Parent for purposes of establishing and enforcing child support orders



# Department of Child Support Services



## CURRENT BUDGET OVERVIEW

FY 2025-2026  
Final Adopted Budget  
(\$ Millions)

<b>Total Appropriation</b> <i>(What We Budgeted to Spend in FY 2025-26)</i>		<b>\$232.0</b>
	Salaries & Employee Benefits (1451 positions)	<b>206.3</b> (89%)
	Services & Supplies	<b>16.4</b> (7%)
	Other (Cap Assets/Equip, Other Charges)	<b>9.3</b> (4%)
<b>Sources of Funding</b> <i>(How We Pay For All of This)</i>		<b>\$232.0</b>
	Federal Assistance	<b>153.2</b> (66%)
	State Assistance	<b>69.8</b> (30%)
	Fees/Charges for Services*	---
	Other Resources**	<b>2.6</b> (<1%)
	Net County Cost <i>remaining balance, covered by locally generated revenues</i>	<b>6.4</b> (3%)

\* Some State and Federally funded services are reflected as "Fees/Charges for Services" through reimbursement mechanisms (e.g., Medi-Cal billing)

\*\* "Other Resources" includes miscellaneous revenues not otherwise classified, including fines, settlements, interest earnings, and interdepartmental billing

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## BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM AREA

What These Investments Deliver For Residents

General Program Category	% of Dept Budget
Human and Social Services	69%
Courts, Justice, and Legal Support	16%
Administration	11%
Technology and Data Work	3%
Community Engagement and Outreach/Workforce Development	1%

Program categories shown here are presentation-level groupings created to consolidate information from the new LA County Enterprise System (LACES) for this briefing. Note that as part of the County's initial rollout of data-driven budgeting through LACES, categories and outcome measures will continue to evolve based on practical use and data insights as departments operationalize the system in FY 2026–27.



## DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES, METRICS & OUTCOMES

Child Support is a critical anti-poverty program serving **~1.1M children** statewide in Federal Fiscal Year\* (FFY) 2024.

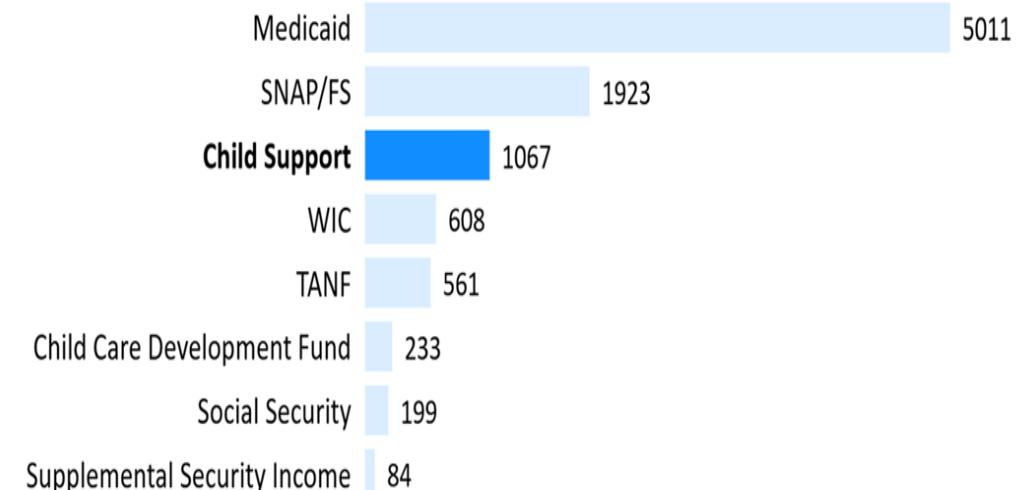
### ADDITIONAL FFY 2025 IMPACT

- Distributed \$517M+ total child support payments**, including arrears (+1.0% vs. prior year)
  - \$474M to households, and
  - \$43M recouped on behalf of taxpayers
- Distributed \$322M+ current support payments** (+1.1% vs. prior year)
- Collected average \$4,668/case** among cases with collections (+4.3% vs. \$4,475/case prior year)
- Established parentage** for 37,275 children

### CHILD SUPPORT: THE HIDDEN SOCIAL SAFETY NET

#### CALIFORNIA CASELOAD COMPARISON

Number of children served (in thousands)



*All data from 2024 with the exception of CCDF which is from 2023. Sources available upon request.*

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## BUDGET REQUEST (FY2026-2027)

<b>Total New Appropriation Request*</b>	<b>\$3.9M</b>
Additional positions requested	0.0
Additional NCC requested	\$0.0M

<b>Key Budget Requests</b>	<b>Amount (\$000s)</b>	<b>One-Time/ Ongoing?</b>	<b>Positions</b>
1. eFiling Software	\$745	One-time	0.0
2. Training & Promotional Material	\$50	Ongoing	0.0
3. Bridges to Support Federal Grant	\$588	One-time	0.0
4. State Funding Restoration	\$2,533	Ongoing	0.0



## CHALLENGES & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Challenge	Mitigation Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Hiring Challenges:</b> Difficulty in hiring qualified candidates</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Partner with DHR to implement strategies such as emergency hiring.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Structural Deficit:</b> Significantly underfunded by the State</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Engage with the State Administration to increase LA County's funding level.</li><li>▪ Educate State legislators about the impact of cutting child support funding. For every State/local \$1 dollar that is cut, child support loses an additional \$2 dollars in federal matching funds.</li></ul>