

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)

Total Appropriation

(What We Budgeted to Spend in FY 2025-26)

\$232.0



Salaries & Employee Benefits (1451 positions)

206.3 (89%)



Services & Supplies

16.4 (7%)



Other (Cap Assets/Equip, Other Charges)

9.3 (4%)

Sources of Funding

(How We Pay For All of This)

\$232.0



Federal Assistance

153.2 (66%)



State Assistance

69.8 (30%)



Fees/Charges for Services*

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Other Resources**

2.6 (<1%)



Net County Cost

remaining balance, covered by locally generated revenues

6.4 (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



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

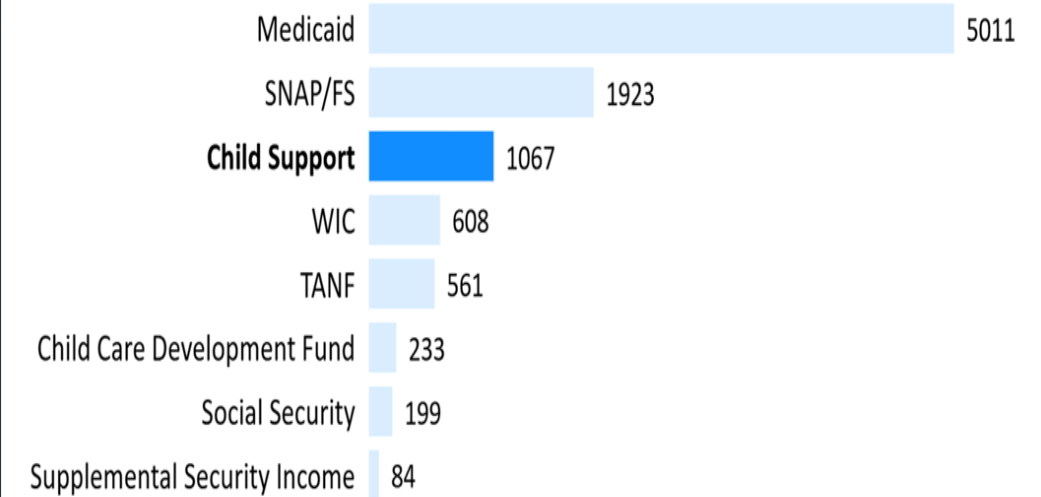
- 1. Distributed \$517M+ total child support payments**, including arrears (+1.0% vs. prior year)
 - \$474M to households, and
 - \$43M recouped on behalf of taxpayers
- 2. Distributed \$322M+ current support payments** (+1.1% vs. prior year)
- 3. Collected average \$4,668/case** among cases with collections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

* Federal Fiscal Year runs October 1 through September 30.

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.



BUDGET REQUEST (FY2026-2027)

Total New Appropriation Request*	\$3.9M
Additional positions requested	0.0
Additional NCC requested	\$0.0M

Key Budget Requests	Amount (\$000s)	One-Time/ Ongoing?	Positions
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">• Hiring Challenges: Difficulty in hiring qualified candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Partner with DHR to implement strategies such as emergency hiring.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structural Deficit: Significantly underfunded by the State	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Engage with the State Administration to increase LA County's funding level.▪ 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.