



Public Information Contact

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rutherford County-----August is National Child Support Awareness Month, which was first proclaimed in 1995 by President Bill Clinton. This year marks the 40th year of the child support program. During the month of August, we take time to recognize the importance of child support and to acknowledge the critical role child support plays in the lives of millions of children. Rutherford County Department of Social Services, Child Support Division, would like to commemorate this year's Child Support Awareness Month by reminding everyone just how vital child support can be for families in need. *"Child support, especially that received on a regular basis, provides financial stability and removes the uncertainty many custodial parents feel, making them less dependent on public assistance,"* said Rhonda Ruppe, Child Support Supervisor.

Rutherford County Child Support offers services locating noncustodial parents, establishing paternity, establishing and modifying support orders (including medical support), collecting support payments and enforcing child support orders. They work with all parties involved to develop the best plan of support for the child. Currently, the agency has 3,431 open child support cases and collected \$4,859,402 on behalf of the children in Rutherford County in fiscal year 2014-2015. Ruppe added, *"We partner very closely with the court system, including judges, the Clerk of Court, and local attorneys, and could not do our work without them."*

DSS Director, John Carroll stated, *"Our Child Support Staff have a passion for the work they do and take this responsibility seriously. Ensuring that children are able to grow up strong, healthy, and able to reach their full potential is the number one goal of staff. Studies show that children who receive the financial and emotional support of both parents, grow up happier, healthier, and perform better in school over those who do not."* It is certainly not an understatement to say that the ten employees who work in the child support program in Rutherford County change children's lives for the better every day.

Anyone wishing more information about the Child Support Program in Rutherford County should contact Rhonda Ruppe at 287-6165.

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Then¹

Now²

CHILDREN SERVED

<3
MILLION



Most from previously married, traditional families

16
MILLION



More from unmarried, complex families

SERVICE APPROACH



Core functions



Family-centered strategies

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS



54

States and territories



60+

Tribes



25+

Countries and provinces

COST-EFFECTIVENESS



\$3.25

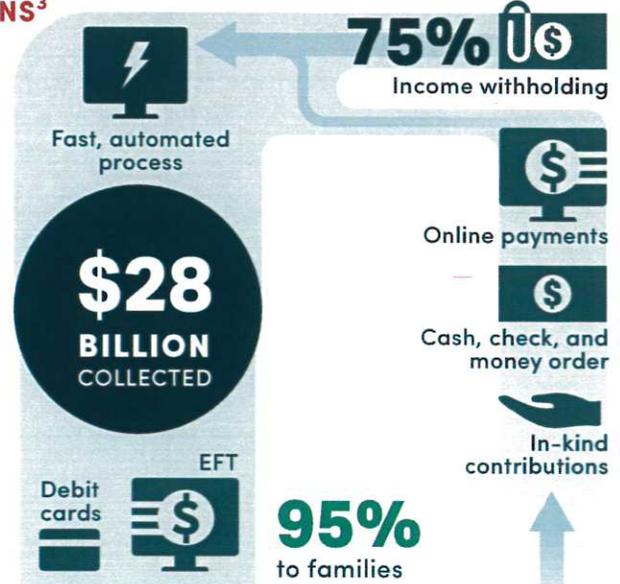
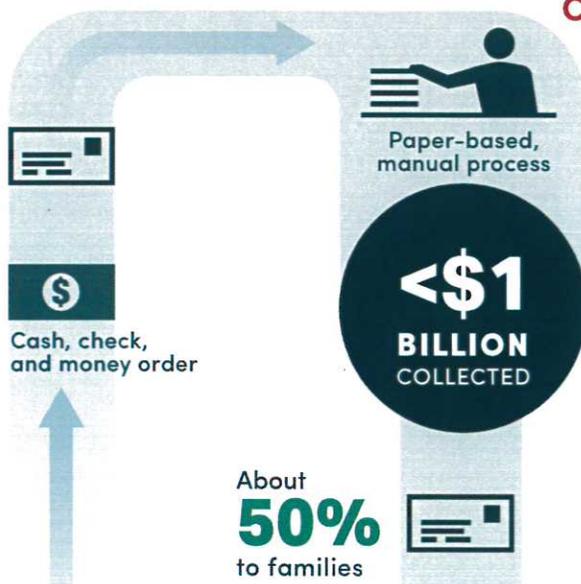
COLLECTED
for every \$1 spent



\$5.25

COLLECTED
for every \$1 spent

COLLECTIONS³



¹ Then - Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) FY1977 Annual Report to Congress.

² Now - OCSE FY2014 Preliminary Report.

³ Collections - IV-D only collections.