

News Release

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Being Active in a Child's Life is Priceless

August is Child Support Awareness Month

Child support and the difference it can make in a child's life is the theme of this year's Child Support Awareness Month (CSAM). During the month of August, the Sacramento County Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) will bring attention to the importance of both parents being involved in their children's lives and providing what they need to be successful. It is also an opportunity to highlight the valuable array of services offered by DCSS. On Tuesday, July 24, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors proclaimed August 2012 as "Child Support Awareness Month."

Child support provides the basic necessities for children such as food, clothing, shelter, and medical coverage, said DCSS director Terrie Porter. "Whether parents live together or not, children still need both for emotional, medical and financial support. The time and attention you give your kids today is what they will remember most."

In state fiscal year 2011/2012, the DCSS helped over 83,000 families and collected over \$109 million on their behalf. The majority of the money collected is disbursed directly to families and the remaining is sent to the state to recoup public assistance expenses. The money sent directly to families allows parents to better provide for their children and, in many cases, it allows them to stop receiving public assistance money.

California Child Support Facts

- Over 1.2 million children receive child support services in California
- California collected over 2.3 billion dollars on behalf of children and families in Federal Fiscal Year 2011
- Nationwide, one in four children receive child support services
- Child support is the second largest source of income for families receiving it

Sacramento County's DCSS offers services to both the custodial parties, and non-custodial parents of children, focusing on the establishment and enforcement of court orders for paternity (legal fatherhood), child support and health insurance coverage. DCSS will open a case at the request of either parent.

For general information call toll free (866) 901-3212 or visit www.dcss.sacounty.net.

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