



Child Support Enforcement and Child Support Collections

The Child Support Enforcement (CSE) program is a joint federal, state, and local effort to secure financial support from noncustodial parents. People who receive benefits from certain other federal assistance programs automatically receive the CSE program's services; others may apply for them. The federal government makes incentive payments to states to operate CSE programs efficiently, and it reimburses states for 66 percent of their programs' operating expenses. There is no limit on federal spending to defray those state expenditures. The federal government also makes grants to states to support services for children and families under the program.

States also collect child support payments on behalf of families that receive cash assistance through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. The receipts are used to reimburse those states and to return funds to the federal government for TANF payments to families.

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	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2025-2029	2025-2034
BUDGET INFORMATION													
Millions of dollars, by fiscal year													
Estimated Outlays for Components of the Child Support Enforcement Program													
Child Support Administration	4,224	4,023	4,039	4,062	4,070	4,039	4,047	4,056	4,071	4,088	4,096	20,233	40,591
Incentive Payments	653	696	718	739	756	773	790	807	826	844	864	3,682	7,813
Payments to Territories; Repatriation	23	24	24	25	26	26	27	27	28	29	29	125	265
Sequestration ^a	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	*	0	0	-5	-7
Child Support Collections^b													
TANF Collections Retained by the Federal Government	-498	-484	-470	-456	-442	-428	-414	-400	-387	-373	-360	-2,280	-4,214

TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; * = between zero and \$500,000.

The projections account for the estimated effects of a June 2023 Internal Revenue Service Security and Privacy Alert Memo (to all heads of child support agencies and safeguard agencies' primary points of contact) that would require child support agencies to develop plans to limit contractor access to federal tax information.

- a. The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, extended sequestration for mandatory spending through fiscal year 2032. The percentage reduction for that year is smaller than the reduction in place through 2031.
- b. Collections are recorded as negative outlays.