



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.

Child Support Enforcement and Child Support Collections

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2026-2030	2026-2035
BUDGET INFORMATION													
Millions of dollars, by fiscal year													
Estimated Outlays for Components of the Child Support Enforcement Program													
Child Support Administration	4,024	4,068	4,090	4,121	4,188	4,202	4,175	4,178	4,183	4,204	4,222	20,669	41,631
Incentive Payments	696	719	740	760	778	795	813	832	850	869	889	3,792	8,045
Payments to Territories; Repatriation	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	49	50	51	52	220	469
Sequestration ^a	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	*	0	0	0	-5	-6
Total Outlays	4,760	4,828	4,872	4,924	5,010	5,042	5,034	5,059	5,083	5,124	5,163	24,676	50,139
Child Support Collections^b													
TANF Collections Retained by the Federal Government	-484	-470	-456	-442	-428	-414	-400	-387	-373	-360	-346	-2,210	-4,076

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

The projections account for the estimated effects of a final rule that would allow child welfare agencies to provide employment and training services to non-custodial parents. See Children and Families Administration, "Employment and Training Service to Noncustodial Parents in the Child Support Program," 89 *Fed. Reg.* 100789 (December 13, 2024), <https://tinyurl.com/2k6mfe58>

- 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.
- Collections are recorded as negative outlays.