

United States Code
Title 42, Chapter 7, Subchapter IV,
Part D*

Social Security Act
Title IV, Part D (Title IV-D)*

- Appropriates block grant funding to assist states in the operation of Child Support Enforcement program.

*The federal Child Support Enforcement program in Title IV-D of the Social Security Act was created as a program designed to recover taxpayer money spent on several federal welfare programs (Titles IV-A, IV-E, XIX, and the federal Food Stamp Act of 1977). The intent of federal IV-D legislation is to recoup taxpayer money already spent on providing these welfare services to children who have been willfully abandoned by a parent and left to rely on the government to self-sustain.

Title IV-D provides for the appropriation of block grant funding to be administered through various federal agencies (DHHS, ACF, OCSE) to states for their **voluntarily participation** in the IV-D program by establishing paternity, and by establishing, enforcing, and collecting on court-orders for child support.

State IV-D child support enforcement program operational costs are currently reimbursed through grant funding under this program ([IV-D, sec. 655](#)) at a rate of 66% for enforcement activities, 80% for technology costs, and 90% for genetic testing costs.

Title IV-D also provides incentive grant funding through the program as well ([IV-D, sec. 658a](#)), which provides a competitive pool (\$452M in FY2006) to states with improved collection activities based on certain criteria set by DHHS/OCSE. Until passage of the federal Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005, this funding was also federally matched if reinvested in the state's CSE program.

According to [the DHHS budget](#), US taxpayers have spent \$4.2Billion in Fiscal Year 2006 for the enforcement and collection of child support, with state and local taxpayers across the country spending billions more.

Federal Department of Health and Human Services

(DHHS)

- Receives appropriation of IV-D funds allocated by the Social Security Act to be administered by the Administration of Families and Children.

Federal Administration of Children and Families

(ACF)

- Receives block grant funds from DHHS for use in operation and administration of OCSE activities.

Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement

(OCSE)

- Oversees and administers central operation of CSE program activities throughout the states and provides reporting to ACF and DHHS of distribution of incentive and reimbursement grant funding to state CSE agencies' programs.

State IV-D Child Support Enforcement Agencies

(Varies by state; in Michigan it's the [OCS](#), who then contracts the legal services of local prosecutors and foc offices. OCS is run by the Michigan Department of Human Services, or DHS.)

- Receives and administers state funding converted from federal IV-D program to fund contracts with local prosecutors and foc offices.

Michigan Department of Human Services

(DHS)

- Receives, converts, and administers federal IV-D funding appropriated by state legislature to operate state IV-D program in compliance with federal guidelines.
- Funds and oversees operations of Michigan Office of Child Support (OCS) branch within DHS.
- Contracts with county prosecutors and circuit court employees (friends of the court) throughout the state to perform IV-D child support activities.

Michigan Office of Child Support

(OCS)

- Receives state funding converted from federal IV-D program to operate state IV-D program in compliance with federal requirements.
- Oversees operation of contracts with counties for performance of IV-D activities within program guidelines

Circuit Courts / Chief Judges

(Family Courts)

- Signs contract with state through county to provide enforcement services of circuit court employee who reports directly to chief judge, friend of the court.

Friends of the Court

(FOC)

- Receives local funding directly from taxpayers, and funding converted from state IV-D program through contract with state, to perform child support order establishment and enforcement services in compliance with state/federal IV-D program guidelines.

County Prosecutors

(PA)

- Receives local funding directly from taxpayers, and funding converted from state IV-D program through contract with state, to perform paternity establishment and other functions in compliance with state/federal IV-D program guidelines.
- Provides enforcement services by bringing charges against non-payers of support.