



Counties:	88
IV-D cases:	693,137
Intergovernmental cases:	45,169
Initiating cases:	24,741
Responding cases:	20,428
	(as of 3/31/2025)

Program Structure & Organization

State Supervised & County Administered

State: Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services, Office of Child Support (ODJFS-OCS)

The Office of Child Support provides leadership & resources to advance Ohio's child support program.

- Statewide system (SETS), reporting, & technical assistance
- State Disbursement Unit (SDU)
- Interstate Central Registry (ICR)
- Statewide policies & forms
- Program compliance, training, & assistance
- Contracts & fiscal oversight
- Grants, outreach, & education
- State call center

County: Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA)

- Cases are administered locally by county child support agencies.
- Each county¹ operates a child support agency & chooses how to organize it.
 - Board of County Commissioners (81 counties)
 - Stand-alone agency (13 counties)
 - Combined with public assistance, children services, &/or workforce agencies (68 counties)
 - County Prosecutor (6 counties)
 - Court (1 county)
- Each CSEA is responsible for its own policy regarding enforcement of support.
 - Differences between county policies occur because of differing philosophies & practical barriers, such as access to courts & attorneys.
 - Upon registration & confirmation an out-of-state order is subject to all available enforcement actions.
- A primary interstate contact for each county is maintained on the Intergovernmental Reference Guide (IRG) application on the federal child support portal.

¹ Hocking, Ross, and Vinton Counties have combined resources to form one Job and Family Services agency. All three counties share one mailing address, but maintain their individual FIPS codes and county courts of jurisdiction.

Interstate Central Registry
• The ICR receives all new intergovernmental requests. ◦ Average 150 per week ◦ Forwards to the appropriate county <u>even when information is incomplete.</u>
Administrative & Judicial Processes
• CSEAs use both administrative & court processes for Ohio orders. • Must register an out-of-state order in court & must have a certified copy of ALL of the orders. ◦ As proof of the order & ◦ To set up the Statewide SETS system properly.
Paternity & Support Establishment
• Biological parents of children born out of wedlock in Ohio may execute a paternity acknowledgement when no other father is possible. ◦ Becomes final & enforceable 60-days from signing. • Establishment of Ohio orders begins administratively. ◦ Many counties then file orders with the courts. ◦ Others maintain an administrative caseload, going to court only as required by the legal process. • When Ohio responds to a request for paternity establishment, agencies proceed in court & require a completed: ◦ Transmittal #1 ◦ Uniform Support Petition & ◦ Declaration in Support of Paternity (separate declarations are required for each child for whom paternity is at issue). • When support is also being sought, a General Testimony with supporting documentation such as birth certificate, copy of paystubs, tax returns, proof of childcare costs, etc. is needed as well. Additional needs may vary by county. • May be possible to file in court for retroactive time periods in establishment cases, but results & ability to proceed vary by county. • When a new child is born into a family with an existing case, an Ohio agency may attempt to simplify the support order by calculating an <i>en gross</i> order for all children & issuing a modified order or may issue an order for the difference between an existing order & the new <i>en gross</i> amount.
Modification
• Ohio requires documentation of the parents': ◦ Income (typically W2s, paystubs, & tax documents), ◦ Health insurance availability & cost ◦ Childcare expenses ◦ Information about other children & child support orders to calculate a guideline order for support. • Modification of an Ohio order begins administratively for both administrative & court support orders. • Objections must be submitted in the timeframes provided on recommendations & decisions. • Modification of another jurisdiction's order will occur in court & a petition must be filed. • Ohio requires: Uniform Support Petition, Transmittal #1, & General Testimony.

Medical Support
• Ohio orders include BOTH cash medical & health insurance provisions. • New or modified orders issued after March 28, 2019 include a nominal cash medical order. • Orders established or modified between 2010 & March 2019 were required to include a cash medical amount that “toggles” on when private health insurance is not being provided & off when children are covered (also changing the child support amount). ○ The finding that a parent is/is not carrying private health insurance & corresponding payment changes are recorded through the administrative process. ○ The CSEA must be notified immediately when health insurance coverage changes.
Termination of Support
• By law the duty of support ends when a child is age 18 & no longer attending high school on a continuous full-time basis, but no longer than 19 unless otherwise provided by court order. • Ohio orders are terminated through an administrative process that results in proration of the order for remaining minors. • The total support order remains unchanged if arrears remain (i.e. the current order for support becomes part of the arrearage order). • Termination of support is documented by a recommendation & results in an administrative or court order.
Case Closure & Non-IV-D Cases
• Follows federal case closure criteria. • Ohio does not automatically close a case if Ohio is the controlling order when all parties move out of state. ○ If other states cut Ohio out of payment processing on an Ohio order, the case is maintained on the system as non-IV-D & ○ Regular arrearage updates are requested. • Maintains records of non-IV-D & closed cases.
Interest, Fees, & Costs
• Ohio orders are required by statute to include an administrative fee that is charged as 2% of the total monthly obligation. • The fee is NOT applied to other states’ orders. • SETS cannot automatically calculate/charge another state’s interest.
Enforcement
Income withholding: • All support cases (IV-D & non-IV-D cases) are subject to income withholding. • Out-of-state withholding from Ohio Unemployment is available. • Out-of-state withholding from prisoner earnings is not available. Administrative Remedies Cases are considered in “Default” when payments are behind in an amount greater than one month, & are subject to: • Professional, Recreational, & Driver’s License Suspension • Bank Freeze & Seize • Insurance Lien • Casino/Lottery/Sports Wagering Intercept • Liens on personal/real property

Court Action Show cause or contempt may be used in some counties. Criminal Non-Support • Is an available for egregious cases. • Subject to prosecutorial discretion. • Sentencing varies by court & may be less stringent than civil penalties.
Incarcerated Parents • Can establish paternity in the county of “residence” using the prison address. • Orders do not automatically abate during periods of incarceration. • Orders may be modified upon request to reflect actual income. • No automatic grace period after release before enforcement actions are taken.
Payment Processing • Processed centrally though Ohio Child Support Payment Central (OCSPC). • For both IV-D & non-IV-D cases. • Disbursed to the designated case when the case is identified. ◦ When a payment has no case specific information, it may be prorated & applied to all obligations an obligor has in our system. • Futures or overpayments paid through Ohio are forwarded on to obligee.
Redirection/Change of Payee • Allows an Ohio child support order to be redirected to a non-parent caretaker with or without legal custody. • Is limited to Ohio child support orders.
Recent/Upcoming Changes • Since 1/1/2023 sports gaming winnings subject to intercept for past due support. • Effective 4/3/2024 all Ohio CSEAs to be able to establish or redirect a child support order for a caretaker, regardless of whether the caretaker has legal custody. • Effective 5/1/2024 all Ohio CSEAs can terminate an Ohio child support order due to death of the obligee.
Computer System & Portal Communication Tools • Support Enforcement Tracking System (SETS). • Federal Child Support Portal: ◦ Query Interstate Cases for Kids (QUICK) ◦ Communications Center ◦ Electronic Document Exchange (EDE)
Intergovernmental Problem-Solving • The CSEA in the county of jurisdiction can assist with copies of pay records & orders. • Try to resolve first with the Ohio CSEA, then escalate to Ohio ICR, if necessary.