The Hidden Social Safety Net
How Child Support Relates to Other Forms of Support for Michigan Families

One in three children are served by the Michigan Child Support Program

32% of children receive child support
12% of children receive WIC
5% of children receive cash assistance

How do child support payments help families?

Nationally, child support lifted nearly 1 million people out of poverty. (2012)
Child support payments reduce poverty in the United States more than cash assistance or WIC. (2013)
Among poor parents who receive child support in the United States the average amount received accounts for more than half of their average income. (2011)

While not traditionally thought of as a social program, child support payments provide more support each month than food assistance, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) or Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Average Monthly Assistance per Family in 2014

Cash Assistance: $358
Child Support Owed: $323
Child Support Received: $286
Food Assistance: $243
Earned Income Tax Credit: $188
Women, Infants and Children: $98

For Michigan families receiving child support, who receive WIC, EITC and food assistance, Child Support makes up 30% of their safety net.