# Child Support in Michigan: Facts & Figures

michigan child support

County and state child support offices in Michigan provide services for more than 782,000 children and their families. Anyone can complete a form to request services from the Michigan Child Support Program. In 2025, all families who received cash assistance (Family Independence Program) and/or Medicaid were required to cooperate with the program to establish paternity and child support orders if it is safe for them to do so. The program's mission is to achieve the well-being of children and self-sufficiency of families by delivering consistent, innovative and holistic services. These services promote healthy relationships between parents and children, ensure parents fulfill their financial obligations to their children and ensure families have access to all possible income sources.

**We provide services for more than 782,000 Michigan children and their families.**

## Paternity for children

- 470,267 children born to unmarried parents have a child support case.
- 92% of children born to unmarried parents had paternity established.

## Demographic information

- We served 782,695 children on 697,512 child support cases.
- 78% of child support cases have an order requiring a parent to provide support.

## Collections for children

- We collected and paid out over $1.03 billion to families.
- 69% of support was paid in the month it was due. Collections of child support paid in the month when due totaled over $855 million.
- We distributed a monthly average of $242 per child for those who were owed support and received payments.
- Families who receive cash assistance and child support received $6.4 million directly instead of these funds reimbursing state and federal program costs.

**For every $1 spent on the Michigan Child Support Program, we collected $4.20 in support for Michigan's children.**

## Child support debt

- Cumulative past-due child support, or arrears, owed as of Sept. 30, 2025, was about $3.68 billion.
- Over $280 million was paid on child support debt. About 62% of cases in arrears received an arrears payment during the year.
- The average debt owed in cases with child support debt was $8,612.

(Federal fiscal year 2025 data is used in this fact sheet unless otherwise indicated.)

## By the numbers

Race data is available for most parents in the Michigan Child Support Program. About 50% are recorded as white, 35% Black, and the rest made up of a variety of other races.

**Program funding:**

The federal government pays 66% of eligible state and county program expenses. The federal government also makes incentive payments to Michigan for its performance in five areas of the program, including disbursed collections. Michigan estimates it will receive approximately $25.8 million for fiscal year 2025. The federal performance incentives are shared between the counties and the state.

**Sources:**

OCSE-157 FY25 Report
OCSE-34 FY25 Report
OCSE-396 FY25 Report
MI Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES)
2025 Kids Count

## Collections and enforcement methods

- **Income withholding.** A total of over $909 million was collected by employers withholding child support from parents' paychecks.
- **Income tax refund intercepts.** Through income tax refund intercepts, $66.4 million (5.5% of all collections) was collected. About 72% of intercepts were from federal refunds; 28% were from state refunds.
- **Financial Institution Data Match.** A total of over $9.4 million was collected by freezing or seizing financial assets.
- **Other enforcement methods.** Parents who do not comply with child support orders may also be denied approval or renewal of their passport, reported to a credit bureau, subject to a civil contempt proceeding or charged with a felony.

## Service delivery

- The Michigan Child Support Enforcement System, Michigan's computer system, supports the work of 1,962 county and state workers in providing child support services.
- The Michigan State Disbursement Unit (MiSDU), Michigan's centralized collection and payment processor, disbursed approximately $110 million monthly.
- Approximately 49% of the collections are directly deposited into checking or savings accounts; 40% of collections are deposited on a debit card, and 11% are paper checks.
- OCS child support specialists answer over 4,500 calls on average each month, obtaining information for case initiation and providing parents with information about child support.
- On average, monthly visits to the MiChildSupport secure website exceeded 344,000 in FY2025. With more than 402,000 active users, parents have used this site to view their case information and apply for child support. The site URL is Michigan.gov/MiChildSupport.
- The MiChildSupport mobile app was launched in January 2025. By the end of September 2025, over 5,000 unique users had logged in over 28,000 times.
- Child support information for parents, employers and hospitals is located on the MDHHS website: Michigan.gov/ChildSupport. This includes information on opening cases, establishing paternity, withholding income, calculating support and other valuable brochures and guides.

MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services