

# Child Support and Young Parenting

## 2015 Pregnancy Assistance Fund Conference

July 13, 2015

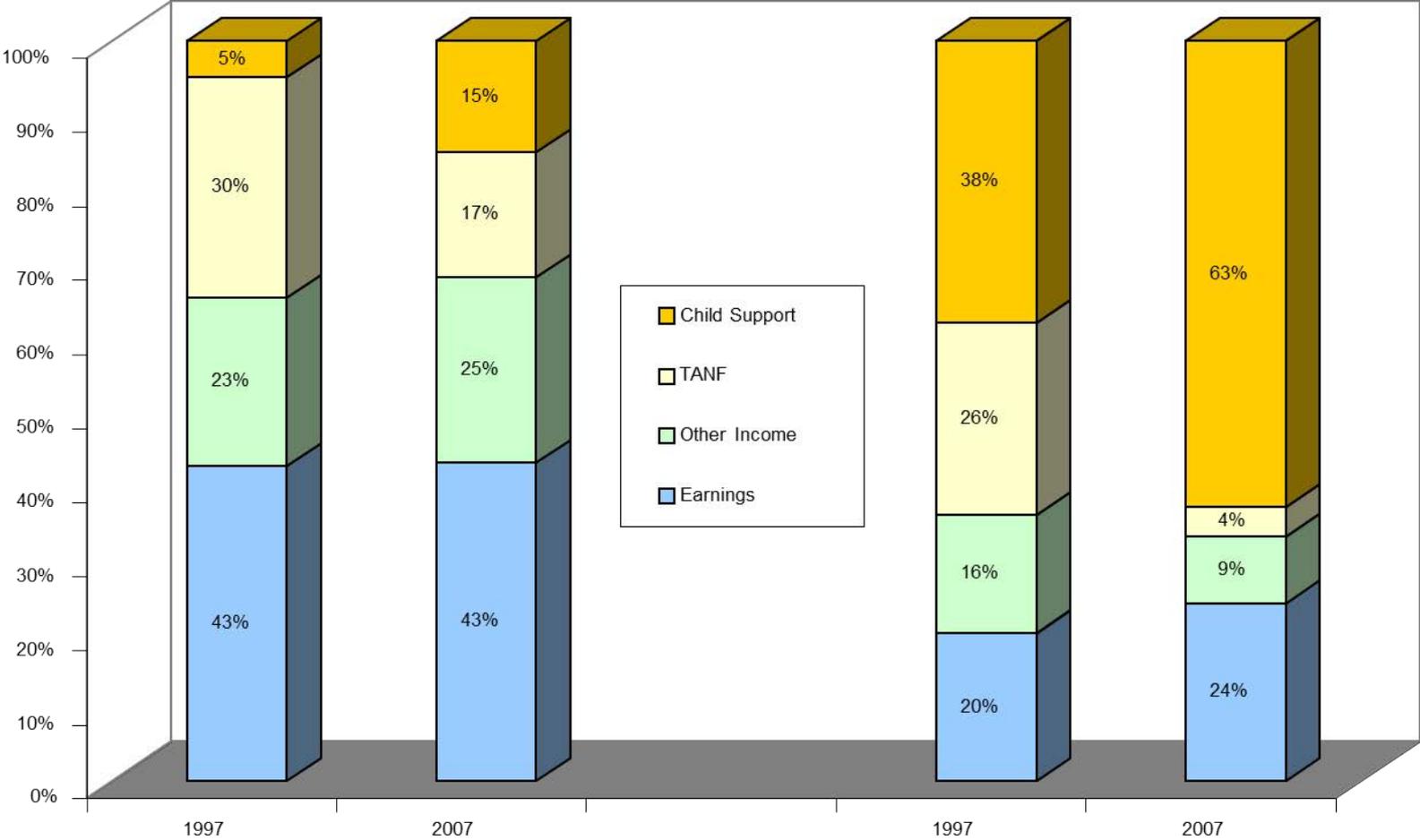
**Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Child Support Enforcement**



# The Child Support Program

- Serves 1 in 4 children — and both parents
- Ensures children receive reliable financial support
- Collects \$28 billion annually, with nearly 95 percent paid to families
- Has a positive effect on children's life outcomes
- Lifted 1.2 million people out of poverty in 2013, and reduced the child poverty rate by 5.5%
- Encourages both parents to be involved in their children's lives
- Avoids public assistance costs
- Collects \$5.31 for every public dollar spent

# Income of deeply poor custodial families

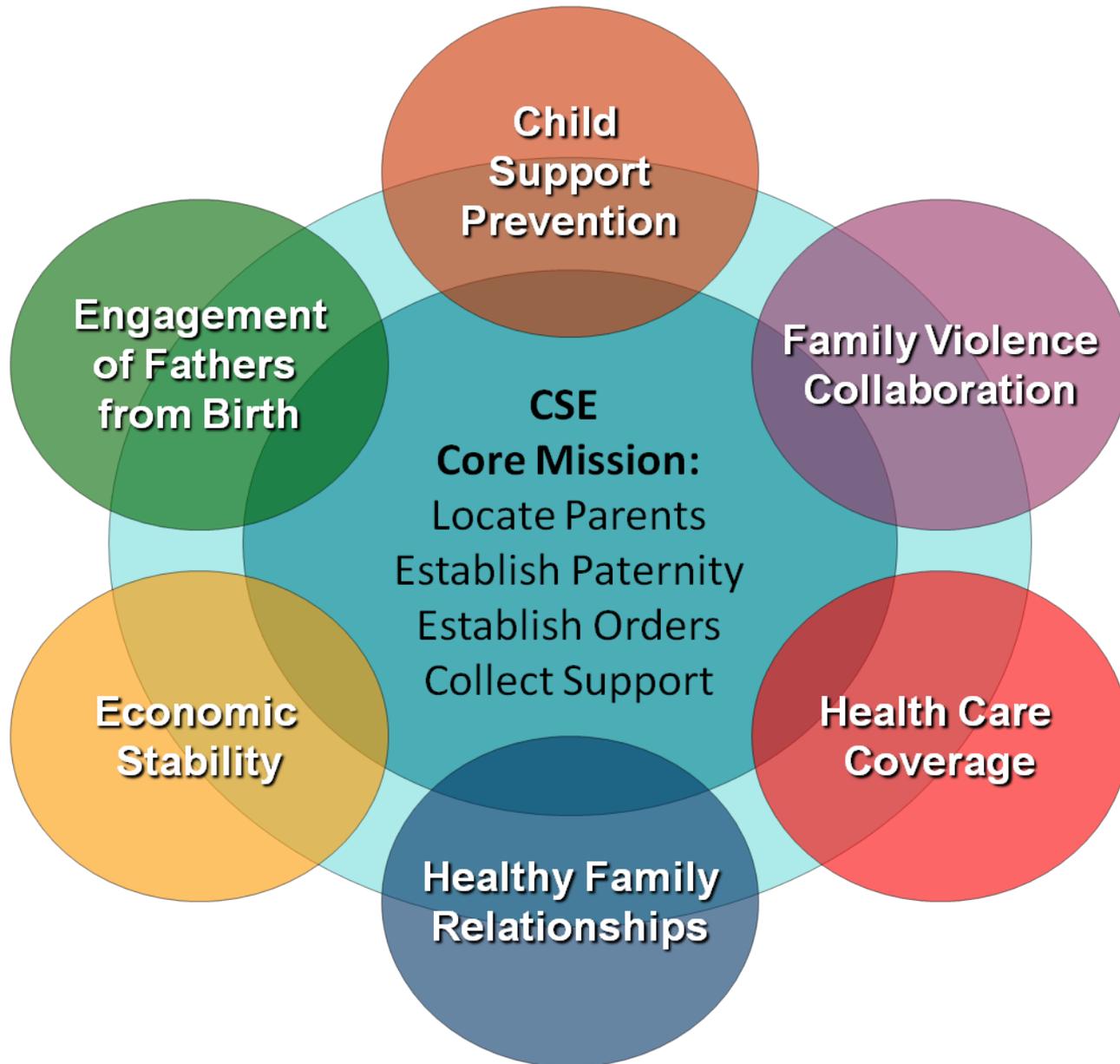


All Deeply Poor Custodial Families

Deeply Poor Custodial Families Who Receive Child Support

Source: Urban Institute

# Family-Centered Child Support Strategies



# Father Engagement – Paternity Establishment

- Two-Generation
- Identity
- Parental Bond
- Legal Rights
- Extended Family
- Benefits and Services



# Economic Stability – Options for Support

- Reserved until age of majority
- Non-monetary accountability
- Minimum monthly amount
- Payroll deduction
- Health insurance



# Parenting Time

## **Sense of the Congress Regarding Offering of Voluntary Parenting Time Arrangements.**

“The Congress finds that increased parental access and visitation is a double win for children - improving parent-child relationships and increasing child support collection. As such, it is the sense of the Congress that establishing parenting time arrangements when obtaining child support orders is an important goal which should be accompanied by strong family violence safeguards. States should use existing funding sources to support the establishment of parenting time arrangements, including child support incentives, Access and Visitation Grants, and Marriage Promotion and Responsible Fatherhood Grants.”

# Parenting Time

- **Promotes connection opportunities:** Supports safe parenting time if pursuant to State child support or parenting time guidelines, or when both parents have agreed to parenting time provisions.
- **Domestic violence plan:** All parenting time services must be informed by an understanding of domestic violence and abuse.
- **Federal resources:** Only allows for *de minimis* costs associated with establishing parenting time provisions incidental to establishing a child support order. Proposed funding of +\$448 million over 10 years for states that choose to include parenting time opportunities in initial child support orders beginning in FY 2021.

# Job Services

- National Child Support Parent Employment Demonstration
  - 2012 through 2017
  - 18 sites in 8 states
  - Employment, Parenting Peer Support, Case Management, Extra Services
- Proposed federal funding for job services
  - Identify the eligible noncustodial parents
  - Must have a child support case
  - Minor child(ren) or current child support order
  - Unemployed or not making child regular child support payments
  - Not in certain other benefit programs
  - Service delivery through partnership with employment agency

# Job Services

- Job services may include:
  - job search assistance;
  - job readiness training;
  - job development and job placement service;
  - skills assessment to facilitate job placement;
  - job retention services; and
  - certificate programs and other skills training directly related to employment; and work supports such as transportation, uniforms, and tools.



# Share the Message

- Child support program and practices are evolving
- Child support can play a positive role in helping to strengthen family income and relationships
- Implementing parent-focused approaches:
  - Building relationships
  - Individualized case management
  - Emphasis on parenting
  - Employment and wrap-around services
- Welcoming opportunities to partner

# Tips for Young Parent Programs

- Reach out to your local child support office
  - Meet with child support to discuss mutual goals
  - Invite a child support representative to talk to staff, provide training, answer questions
- Develop and implement a systemic approach
  - Add child support to routine programming and presentations to parent groups
  - Encourage parents to engage with child support
  - Assistance parents in understanding documents

# Learn More

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css)

Office of Child Support Enforcement

Thank You!

