

FY22 FACT SHEET

Child Welfare Research and Training Project

Child Support Training, Outreach, and Research

Purpose: Iowa State University staff, students, and faculty enrich Iowa's Child Support program through unparalleled training, outreach, and research.

Who We Serve	<p>Child Support Training, Outreach and Research collaborates with Iowa Child Support within Iowa's Department of Human Services (DHS) in accomplishing its mission to assist families to achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency by establishing and enforcing child and medical support orders and by processing support payments. Iowa Child Support also has projects and grants to increase and enhance involvement of parents with their children and improve child support processes, help payors find work, facilitate access and visitation, and participate in other parental activities.</p> <p>Impact of this collaborative work on Iowa families is significant. In FY21, Child Support field staff covered 157,678 child support and medical support cases. Total collections equaled \$348 million in current and past due child support; families were able to provide basic needs to their children with these dollars.</p> <p>Funding is negotiated annually between ISU and DHS. Iowa Child Support draws down federal dollars to pay for services provided by CWRTP. There are few University-State Child Support collaborations in the United States. This unique ISU-DHS collaboration is nationally recognized.</p>
Our Primary Activities	<p>Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Create new trainings, revise existing trainings, and produce technical documents related to child support processes and essential skills. ✓ Provide training through eLearning, in-person, and webinars using a specifically designed instructional design process, Smartsheet project management tool, and learning management system (LooMiS). ✓ Update Child Support Attorney Guidebook. ✓ Training provided to 400+ field staff, management and attorneys in 22 offices across the state who are responsible for establishing and enforcing child support. <hr/> <p>Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parenting: It's A Life (PIAL) equips youth and emerging adults with life skills and introduces them to the emotional, social and financial realities of being a parent by providing a free, relevant and research-driven curriculum to schools, colleges, and youth-serving agencies. ✓ Voluntary Paternity Affidavit Program (VPA) educates hospital personnel, community organizations, and unmarried parents to understand the importance of establishing paternity. ✓ Child Support Training Partnership (CSTP) formalizes the process of collaboration among organizations that provide training to child support workers by expanding resources, strengthening training strategies, sharing knowledge, and promoting opportunities to network. ✓ A variety of digital and print media projects are completed related to promoting Iowa Child Support in a positive way. <hr/> <p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Examine specific subject matter, design program evaluation, create surveys, analyze data and disseminate results via reports, posters, published journal articles, and conferences. ✓ Conduct research related to PIAL, VPA, child support caseload, child support process training, and child support legal projects for the Iowa Attorney General's office.

