Multnomah County				
Program #15104 - Child	Support Enforcement			3/2/2021
Department:	District Attorney	Program Contact:	John Casalino	
Program Offer Type: Related Programs:	Existing Operating Program	Program Offer Stage:	As Requested	

Program Characteristics: Backfill State/Federal/Grant, In Target

### **Executive Summary**

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Support Enforcement Division (SED) establishes, modifies and enforces paternity, child support and medical support orders for the families of Multnomah County as part of the Oregon Child Support Program (OCSP) by working with both parents to provide the financial and emotional and culturally specific support their children need to grow and thrive. OCSP delegates the authority of non-public assistance cases to county district attorney offices. These child support payments are essential for promoting equitable outcomes and helping struggling members of our community provide for their children and families.

## **Program Summary**

The Child Support Enforcement (CSE) Program, operated by the Support Enforcement Division (SED), was enacted in 1975 as a federal-state-local partnership. The federal government reimburses each state 66% of all allowable expenditures on CSE activities, including staffing costs. The federal government's funding is open-ended in that it pays its percentage of expenditures by matching the amounts spent by state and local governments with no upper limit or ceiling.

Operating in two locations (downtown and East County), the SED routinely carries an average caseload of approximately 7,500 cases and collects approximately \$31-\$33 million annually. Every dollar collected (less a \$25 annual fee after \$500 collected) is sent directly to custodial parents for the benefit of the children in our community, providing a critical safety net for families.

Implemented in 2019, a modernized statewide child support computer conversion provides SED with a more automated system to establish, modify and enforce support orders which result in payments benefiting over 10,000 children in our community. While seeking accountability from parents ordered to pay support, SED also works to reduce barriers for those who are unable to meet their obligations by working with the courts to refer parents for job placement, addiction evaluations and appropriate mental health services. This support is crucial to overcome system barriers and move towards more equitable outcomes for member of our community

SED works with all 50 states, local tribes, and US territories to cooperatively provide child support services. In addition, OCSP and CSE have reciprocity agreements with over 30 foreign nations.

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Average number of Families (cases) assisted each month	7,584	7,900	7,584	7,584
Outcome	Dollars of child support collected (in millions)	\$33	\$31	\$33	\$31

## Legal / Contractual Obligation

Per ORS 25.080, the District Attorney's Office provides support services by application to 1) a child support recipient who lives in Multnomah County 2) a child support recipient who lives out of state but the obligating party lives in Multnomah County or 3) both the obligating party and support order are in Multnomah County. Cases may remain in the District Attorney caseload for the duration of the support order and until all arrears are paid in full. ORS 416.415 (paternity); ORS 416.425, (modifying support orders); ORS 416.429, (establish and enforce arrearages)

Revenue/Expense Detail								
	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds				
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022				
Personnel	\$762,760	\$2,362,866	\$835,819	\$2,408,244				
Contractual Services	\$0	\$10,000	\$3,400	\$6,600				
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$52,650	\$19,006	\$36,894				
Internal Services	\$223,559	\$782,924	\$170,182	\$890,512				
Total GF/non-GF	\$986,319	\$3,208,440	\$1,028,407	\$3,342,250				
Program Total:	\$4,19	\$4,194,759		\$4,370,657				
Program FTE	4.51	21.09	4.98	20.62				
Program Revenues								
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$3,178,496	\$0	\$3,302,250				
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$29,944	\$0	\$40,000				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$3,208,440	\$0	\$3,342,250				

### Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$560,157 in indirect revenues.

Cooperative Agreement with US Department of Health and Human Services under Title IV-D of the SSA to implement and provide child support services, and in return, the DA's Office receives state and federal financial assistance to support a portion of the total eligible program costs.

State GF Grant = \$170,209 (\$138,090 personnel costs + \$32,119 indirect costs); Federal Incentive Grant = \$386,024 (\$313,179 personnel costs + \$72,845 indirect costs). Program Fees = \$40,000 (\$32,453 personnel costs + \$7,547 indirect costs). Federal Reimbursement 66% of total program costs (less Federal Incentive Grant Fund & Unallowable costs) = \$2,746,017; County GF contribution = \$1,013,468.

# Significant Program Changes

# Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 15104 Child Support Enforcement

Collections have increased this year to the highest ever--over \$33 million. This has allowed SED to get more funds directly into the hands of struggling parents so they could provide housing, clothing, food and other essentials for their children. SED has proven that it can adapt to a remote work environment and provide the highest level of service to Multnomah County families. SED aims to serve families in a way that promotes equity and engagement to parents in supporting their children financially and emotionally.

State funding reduction of \$26,127 is backfilled using county general funds