

- In 2010, Colorado Counties collected **\$317,133,681** in total support.
- Public Assistance recipients are required to cooperate with County Child Support Enforcement offices.
- There are **142,500** Child Support Enforcement cases handled by Colorado County offices.
- **14** States have County operated programs.
- **33** States/Territories have State operated programs.
- **7** States have hybrid -State, County, and privately operated programs.

## CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

### Colorado Child Support Enforcement Mission

The Mission of the Child Support Enforcement program is to ensure that both parents support their children. This is accomplished by:

- Locating Parents
- Establishing Paternity
- Establishing and Enforcing Child Support and Medical Support Orders
- Modifying Child Support Orders

### Title IV-D of the Social Security Act

In 1975, The Social Security Act was amended to add Title IV-D, which provided Federal financing to states to develop effective State plans for the establishment of paternity, and the establishment, enforcement, and modification of child support orders. In addition to every state, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia have all developed plans in accordance with Title IV-D.

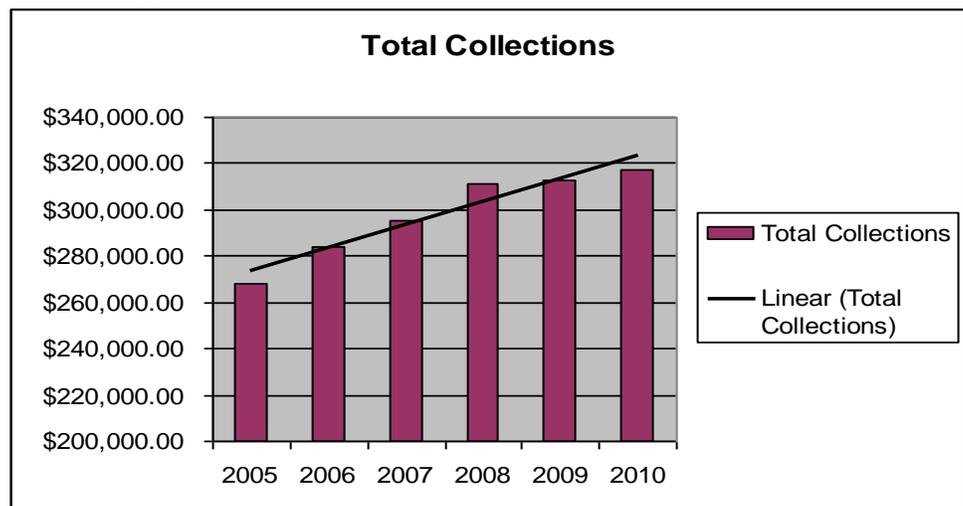
There are currently **14** states, including Colorado, that have developed State plans under Title IV-D that are administered by County Offices of Child Support Enforcement; there are **33** states/territories that have developed Title IV-D plans that are administered by State Offices of Child Support; and there are **seven** states that have chosen to administer their Title IV-D programs by utilizing a combination of County, State and private Child Support Offices.

- Although we are in the midst of difficult economic times, Colorado's Child Support Enforcement Program has continued to perform as one of the top programs in the nation.
- Colorado Counties collected **\$317,113,681** in 2010. Colorado was one of the few states to see an increase from 2009.
- Colorado's total child support enforcement collections grew by **10.4%** from FFY 2006 to 2010.

### Colorado's Child Support Enforcement Administration

The Colorado Child Support Enforcement Program is organized as follows:

- Regulations must be enacted at the State level through statutes, rules and/or policies and procedures. The laws, rules, and policies are administered at the County level. Colorado's Child Support Enforcement Program is State supervised and County administered.
- The County Offices of Child Support Enforcement administers the program by utilization of the Automated Child Support Enforcement System (ACSES), working with parents, employers, and other government agencies to establish, enforce, and modify child support orders. The County is the contact point for all parents to ensure services are being provided in accordance with regulations, statutes, and policies.
- The State Office of Child Support Enforcement provides guidance to the County offices on any Federal or State changes affecting the program, oversees the child support computer system (ACSES), contracts with private vendors for payment disbursement, provides training to the County offices, and oversees new initiatives and provides the framework for automated remedies, such as driver's license suspension, tax offset, etc.
- Colorado Counties collected **\$317,113,681** in 2010, which was slightly more than the total collections in 2009. The following graph shows the trend for collections over the past 5 years. Although we are in the midst of difficult economic times, Colorado's Child Support Enforcement Program has continued to perform as one of the top programs in the nation, which is reflected by the continued positive collections trend, which is in large part due to the collaborative efforts between the County and State Offices of Child Support Enforcement.



Source: Colorado MMR Report

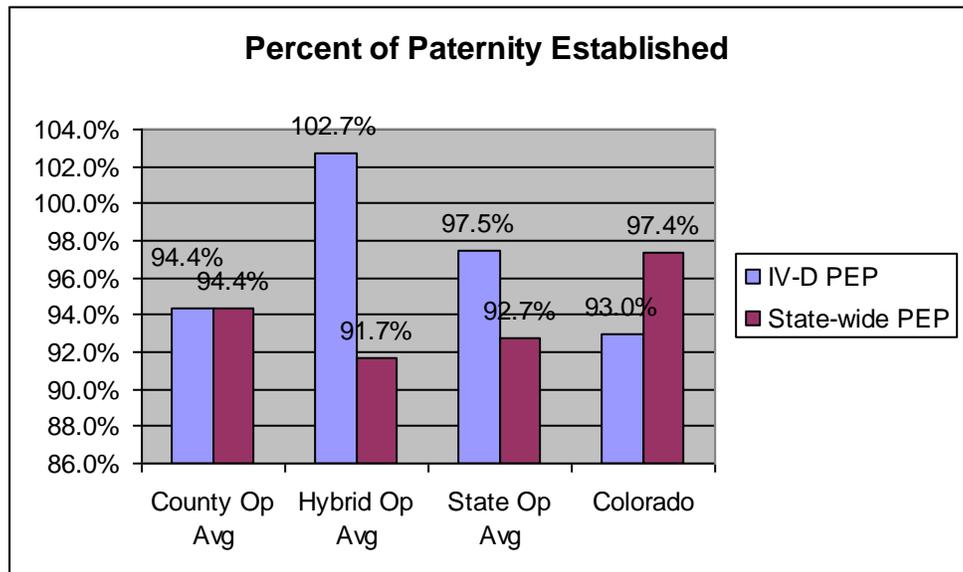
- Colorado has achieved the federal goal of **90%** of all children having a father listed on the child's birth certificate each of the last 6 years. In 2009, Colorado was ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation and moved to 5<sup>th</sup> place nationwide in 2010.

The Paternity Establishment Percentage (PEP) represents the percentage of children born each year that have a father's name listed on each child's birth certificate. Having a father listed on every child's birth certificate is crucial to ensure children are eligible for survivor's benefits, that children have access to family medical histories, and to promote parenting.

States have a choice on reporting statewide PEP or reporting the IV-D PEP. Statewide PEP includes all children born out of wedlock in Colorado while IV-D PEP only includes children born in Colorado that are listed on cases handled by County Offices of Child Support Enforcement. Colorado has historically reported statewide PEP and has begun the process to convert to IV-D PEP.

The graph below indicates that Colorado's continued efforts to improve both IV-D and Statewide PEP have resulted in substantial increases for both indicators. Colorado's Statewide PEP was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in 2010.

### Average Paternity Establishment Percentage (PEP) by Type of Administration in 2010



Source: Preliminary data based on 157 data presented to OCSE

- Colorado establishes a significantly higher percentage of orders on cases than the averages for all other states, regardless of how the state is administered.
- Colorado continued to be in the top 10 of all States/Territories for the percentage of caseload with an order in 2010.
- Colorado has achieved the Federal goal of **80%** of cases with an order for the last 10 years.

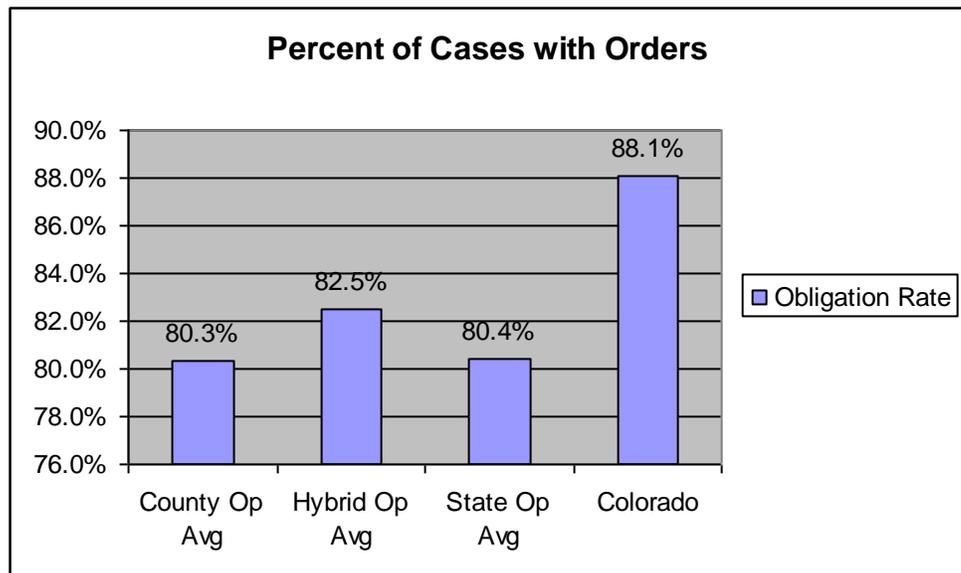
### Establishing Child Support Orders

The first step in providing support to children is to establish court orders on each case that Child Support Enforcement services are being provided. Without a court-ordered child support obligation, custodial parents are at the whim of the non-custodial parents in assisting with the financial support of their children. Court-ordered child support obligations also provide a basis for collection remedies used to ensure consistent payments are made.

Because establishing court orders for child support is crucial, Colorado has implemented many significant changes over the years to ensure that this first step is not a barrier to the families we serve.

While statistics show very little difference between the county administered programs and state administered programs, the following graph clearly shows the commitment Colorado has made to ensure that a court order for child support is in place for every child, when possible.

Percentage of Cases with Orders by Administration Type



Source: Preliminary data based on 157 data presented to OCSE

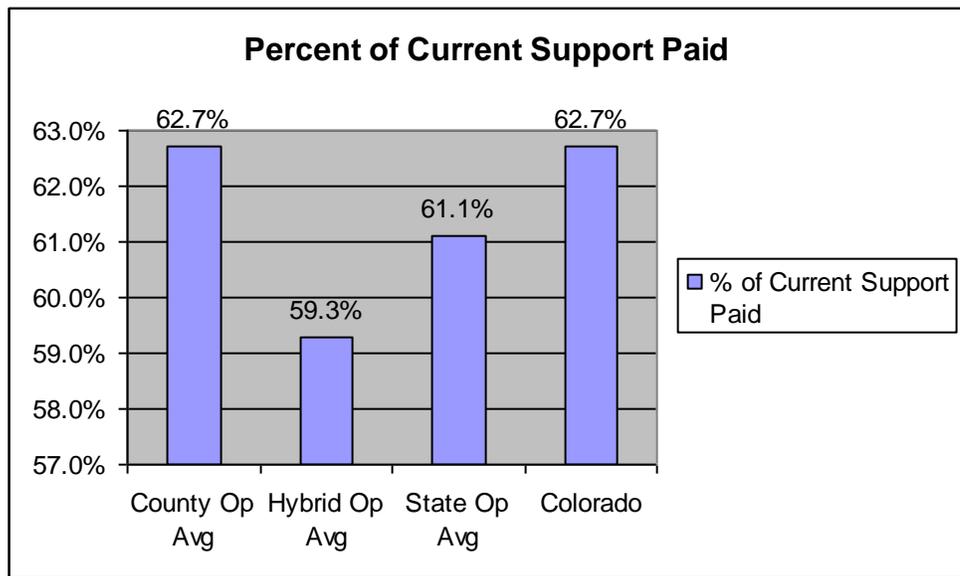
- Colorado, as with other county administered programs, outpaced state administered and hybrid administered programs in the collection of current support.
- Colorado’s caseloads include 8% more cases with orders, usually more difficult cases, than the national average which indicates that Colorado maintains a higher average than state administered programs while ensuring more families receive services.

**Collecting Current Child Support**

Once an order for child support has been entered, the collection of consistent monthly payments becomes the goal for each County office administering Child Support Enforcement programs. Current child support often times is the difference between children living in poverty or not.

Colorado has done well in the area of current support collections and routinely strives to continue to improve in this area. The graph below shows that County offices outpace both State and hybrid administered programs. Colorado’s child support collections levels are very consistent with other states that have County-administered programs. This is significant because Colorado’s caseload has 8% more cases with orders for child support than other comparable states. The cases represented by these additional 8% are usually the more difficult cases involving incarcerated obligors, unemployed obligors, undocumented obligors, etc.

**Percent of Current Collections by Administration Type**



**Source:** Preliminary data based on 157 data presented to OCSE

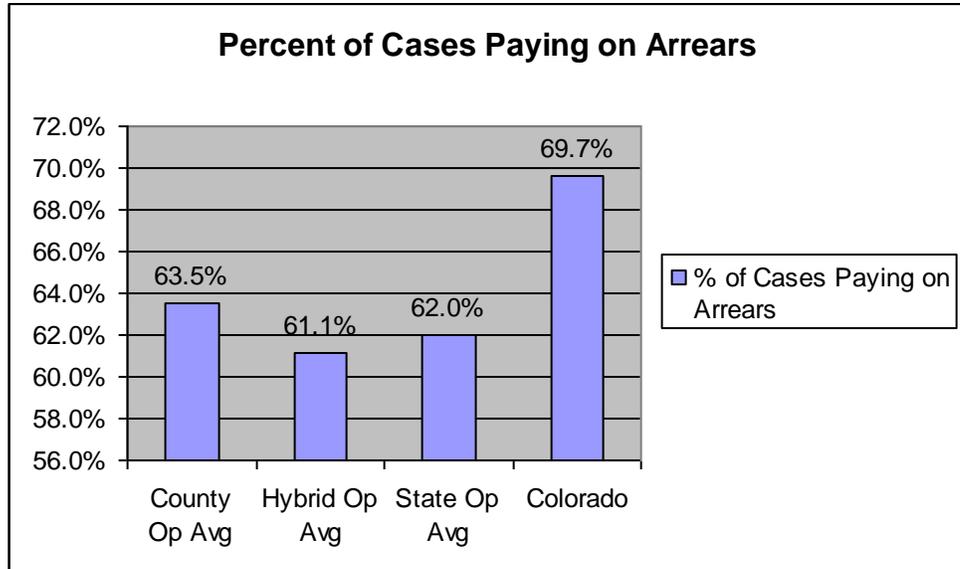
- Colorado has achieved the federal performance goal of **70%** of all cases with arrears paying an arrears amount for the past three years.
- Colorado has surpassed the national average for the past 11 years.
- Colorado outperformed those states that are State administered programs by **8%**.

### Collecting Child Support Arrears

Often times, Child Support Enforcement offices receive cases several months or years after children have been born or after a court has entered an order for child support. These types of cases begin with past due support that also needs to be collected. Coupled with current support payments, arrears payments can further assist removing children from poverty. Colorado has excelled in the collection of child support arrears without negatively impacting current support collections. It is Colorado's commitment to being focused on current support paid that leads to arrears being paid and not increased for those cases that have both current support and arrears obligations which further increases Colorado's effectiveness in the collection of child support arrears.

While the graph below shows that States/Territories with county administered programs are better at collecting child support arrears than State or hybrid administered programs, Colorado has far outpaced the efforts made nationally. This is made even more significant because Colorado caseloads contain **8%** more cases with orders than the rest of the nation. Colorado also follows strict protocols to avoiding closing more difficult cases.

Percentage of Arrears Cases with a Payment in 2010 by Administration Type



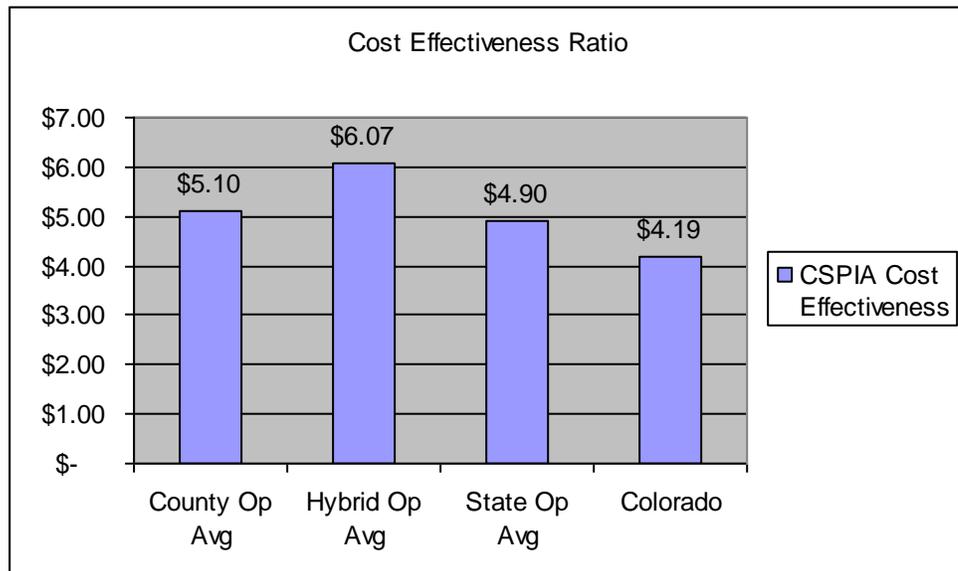
Source: Preliminary data based on 157 data presented to OCSE

- For every dollar in public funds spent, Colorado collects **\$4.19** in child support payments.

### Cost Effectiveness Ratio (CER)

Cost effectiveness is calculated by dividing the total amount of collections by the cost of administering the program. The following graph shows that Colorado, as a state, is below the averages for cost effectiveness. Colorado consistently continues to improve in collecting monies for families and the cost of continual improvement as defined by the yearly increases in rankings in collections for current support paid, arrears cases with a payment and total collections reflects that the higher cost of administering the state's program is consistent with the higher returns on every dollar spent.

### Dollar Amount Received for Every Dollar Spent in 2010 by Administration Type



Source: Preliminary data based on 157 data presented to OCSE

### **Conclusion**

Taken individually, each of the proceeding graphs show that County administered Child Support Enforcement programs are either consistent with, or exceed, State and hybrid administered programs. The statistics also show that the current structure of Colorado's Child Support Enforcement program facilitates excellence in the program. The collaboration between the County offices and the State office has led to several national awards and more importantly, a higher rate of service for the children we serve. This is clearly illustrated by Colorado far exceeding the national average in cases with child support orders which means that a much higher percentage of Colorado families have orders and receive support than the vast majority of States and Territories.