

Welcome to the Dad Allies Provider Learning Series

Empowerment with Enforcement:
Child Support Presents Alternative Solutions

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Fathers and Parenting

Transforming
Lives

We
know
that:

Child and family well-being improve when fathers are positively engaged in their children's lives.

Fathers play a unique and important role in children's development.

Fathers should have support and resources to become the fathers they aspire to be.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Child Support 101





Opening a Child Support Case in WA

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Child Support 101

A Case Opens...

- A Parent or Caretaker Applies for Services
- Court Order is Filed in WA with Pay to the “Washington State Support Registry”
- As a “Matter of Law” from a Public Assistance Program Referral



Parentage, the Starting Point

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Child Support 101

DNA & Biology may not matter

- **Legal Process to determine the Parents**
 - Marriage Presumption
 - Registered Partnership
 - Paternity Acknowledgment
 - Court Order

Why Parentage Matters

- Complete Medical History
- Dependent Benefits
- Life Insurance and Inheritance
- Financial Support
- Medical Support
- Emotional Health and Personal Identity



Legal Obligations and Support Orders

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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Administrative Orders

- Can require Financial and/or Medical Support
- Can address child care

Court Orders

- **Almost anything goes if a Judge agrees**
- **Can require Financial and/or Medical Support**
- **Can require In-Kind Support**
 - Usually only Tribal Courts
- **Can address child care, school costs, extra-curricular activities, claiming the child on your taxes, secondary support, and similar things**

Custody & Visitation

- Child Support is Separate from Custody and Visitation
- The Division of Child Support cannot address or enforce anything regarding Custody and Visitation
- The Division of Child Support can provide resources to assist



Changing a Support Order

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Child Support 101

Modification

- **Anyone can request a modification at any time**
 - Not every court or jurisdiction will always do a modification
- **Jurisdiction**
 - Location of the Order
 - Location of the Parties
- **Modifications can be unpredictable**



Enforcement, the Hot Topic

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Child Support 101

Goal of Enforcement

- Regular Child Support Payments
- Health Insurance and access to Healthcare

It's Automatic

- Wage Withholdings
- Filing Liens
- Debt Registry
- Credit Bureau Reporting (>\$1000.00)
- Lottery Winnings (>\$600)

It's Standard

- Referral to an Appropriate Jurisdiction
- WA Issued License Suspension
- Bank Account Collections
- Vehicle Lien and Seizure
- Contempt of Court
- IRS Refunds

Enforcement Advice

- Pay your Child Support
- Keep your info up to date
- Contact Us



Who wants a Conference Board?

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Child Support 101

What is it?

- Administrative Review Process
- Administrative Complaint / Grievance Process

What can it do?

- Review Enforcement Actions
- Decide “He Said” / “She Said” Issues
- Respond to any complaint not resolved by an Support Enforcement Officer or their supervisor

What's a "Write-Off"?

- **A write-off forgives or eliminates debt**
 - ONLY for debt owed to Washington
- **A Conference Board Chairperson considers**
 - Is the debt appropriate?
 - Is there a hardship to repayment?
 - What is the collection potential?
 - Has other child support debt been forgiven in the past?

HELP is available...

- **PREP**
 - Partnership for Re-Employment Program
- **Alternative Solutions**
 - Building Capacity in Parents



Partnership for Re-Employment Program

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Child Support 101

Washington's Division of Child Support is teaming up with WorkSource Spokane to help parents find jobs through the Partnership for Re-Employment Program (PREP).



WorkSource Spokane will provide:

- One-on-one job coaching
- Job referrals
- Résumé assistance
- Support services

Washington's Division of Child Support is teaming up with WorkSource Spokane to help parents find jobs through the Partnership for Re-Employment Program (PREP).

Division of Child Support can help:

- Reduce or modify your child support payments (conditions apply)
- Assist with overcoming additional barriers to successful employment





Transforming
Lives

Problems paying, we can help!
Alternative Solutions

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Child Support 101

What we do...

Connections to Community Resources
Child Support Related Services and Information
Re-engagement of Parents
Community Outreach
Individualized Case Management

Alternative Solutions

- 8,693 Parent Referrals
- 76% of engaged parents removed barriers
- 649 found employment
- 848 Modifications initiated
- 43,104 Resources provided
- \$4,753,026 in debt reduction

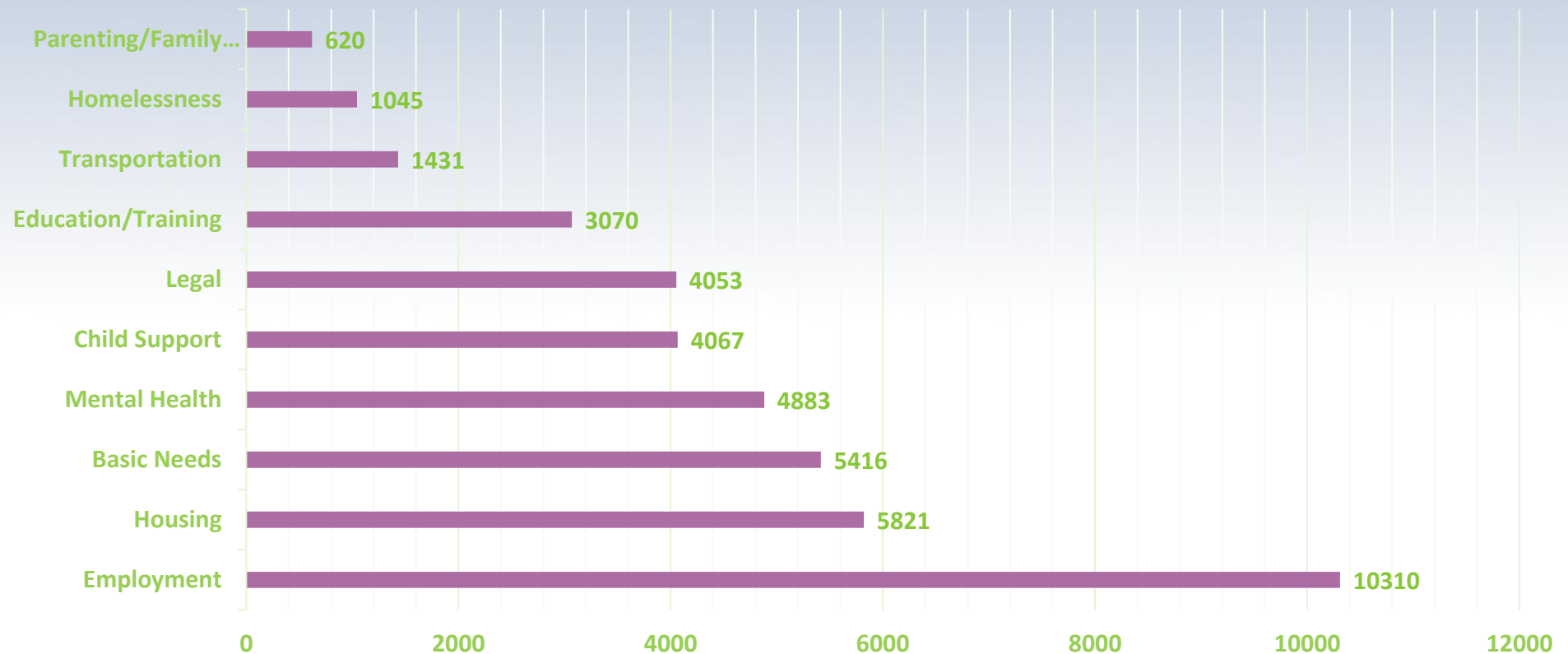
Since July 2014

Parent Demographics



BARRIERS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Top 10 Resources Provided 2014-Present



Who is eligible?

Must have an open
Child Support
Case in WA

Must be paying
parent (NCP)

Must live in
WA State

Willingness to
participate

Must be facing
barriers outside of
child support

Established
Communication
Method

Instances we would not open full case:

Incarcerated parents <
30 days from release

Parents who are in
inpatient treatment <
30 days

Parents living outside
of WA

Referring to Alternative Solutions



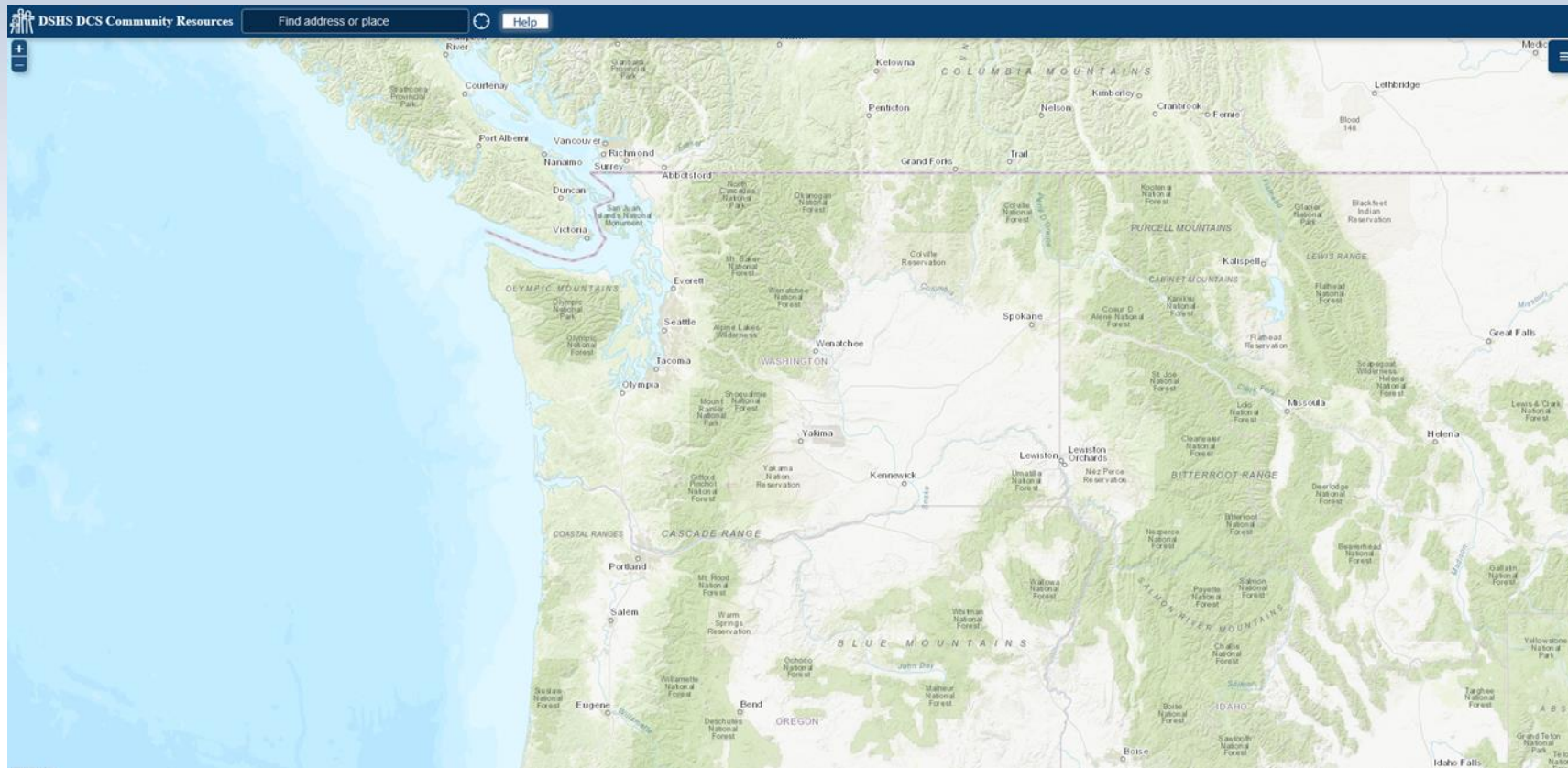
Parent Self-Referral

- Will need to follow a resourcing plan and have a stable communication method
- Parent can contact Alternative Solutions directly to self-refer

Community Partner Referral

- Email to request a referral form

DSHS DCS Community Resources



Alternative Solutions Program

360-664-5028 or 800-604-1146

Fax: 360-664-5209

AlternativeSolutions@dshs.wa.gov



Do you have any Questions?

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Child Support 101