



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Gov. Hickenlooper Proclaims August 'Child Support Services Month'

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Denver) - Gov. John Hickenlooper signed a proclamation recognizing August as Child Support Services Month in order to highlight the importance of both parents in the lives of Colorado's children, and to recognize the achievements of child support professionals statewide.

"Colorado is committed to promoting the health and well-being of all our children by providing a variety of child support services to help ensure that parents pay child support on a regular and timely basis," the proclamation says.

The recognition comes at a time when Child Support Services in Colorado has made recent strides in achieving better outcomes for families thanks to innovation and new approaches to child support enforcement.

One program showing positive results is the Colorado Parents Employment Project. The federally-funded pilot program was responsible for assisting nearly 200 non-custodial parents with finding employment in 2014. Of those parents receiving the project's enhanced services, 76 percent have made a child support payment in the last six months.

Another recent innovation in Colorado Child Support Services is mobile and electronic methods of paying child support, introduced in March. The change has helped increase the convenience, efficiency and timeliness of delivering financial support to children. The new system has helped users make more than 5,000 payments totaling nearly \$2 million in child support.

Colorado Child Support Services also has plans to begin an automated text messaging notification system by the end of this month. The system is intended to increase the effectiveness of child support enforcement correspondence by using short text messages in lieu of phone calls to communicate with clients. Similar systems implemented in other states have helped boost compliance with child support enforcement.



The recent and expected changes help make an already effective child support program one of the best in the country. Colorado ranks in the top ten for child support service performance, according to a comparative analysis of state programs performed by MAXIMUS Inc.

“We’re proud to be part of implementing a program that improves relationships between parents and children and helps ensure children are getting the financial support they need,” said Larry Desbien, Director of the Division of Child Support Services.

“Those outcomes are made possible by the recent advances and the hard work of the child support professionals throughout the state,” Desbien said.

The strides made by Colorado’s Child Support Services are in keeping with the Colorado Department of Human Services’ mission: to design and deliver high quality human and health services that improve the safety, independence, and well-being of the people of Colorado.

For more information on Child Support Services in Colorado log onto the [Colorado Division of Child Support Services Portal](#).

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