

Responsible Fatherhood Month 2016– Awarded Programs

GRANTEE	PURPOSES
CASA Board Volunteer	Provide a presentation titled "Father Friendly Community Event" that includes the following topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issues Facing Fatherless; 2. The importance of Responsible Fathers; 3. Connecting Summit Co. Fathers to Services & Resources; and 4. Fostering the Fatherhood Movement in Summit County.
Child Development of Franklin County	Provide a presentation titled "Males Matter – Empowerment Day" that includes the following topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issues facing fatherless children; 2. The importance of responsible fathers; 3. The services available for fathers in the local communities; and 4. How local service providers can get involved in the fatherhood program.
CAC of Erie, Huron and Richland Head Start	Provide a presentation titled "24/7 Dad" that includes the following topics/activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daddy & Me; 2. Scavenger Hunt; 3. Cast with Me; 4. Time with Me; 5. Reading, Storytelling Place 6. Fly with Me; and 7. Photo Booth.
Circleville Juvenile Correctional	Provide a presentation titled "Young Men Take Action" that includes the following topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community provider presentations of resources for families; 2. Healthy fathering/interactive activities; 3. Informational booths; and 4. Teen pregnancy prevention.
Columbus Urban League	Provide a presentation titled "Fishing with Dad" that includes the following topics/activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fatherhood resources; 2. Promote responsible fatherhood; 3. Celebration of Fatherhood; 4. Bonding time with Dad; and 5. Fishing with dads.

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Forever Dads	<p>Provide a presentation titled “Celebrating Fathers and Families” that includes the following topics/activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issues facing fatherless children; 2. The importance of an involved father; 3. Information booths; and 4. Fathers/children activities.
Freedom CDC	<p>Provide a presentation titled “Man Up Leadership Summit - Restoring Fathers and Families” that includes the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Words of inspiration; 2. Call-to-Action (ways to get involved); 3. Pledge of commitment; and 4. Next Steps
Montgomery Co. Job & Family Services	<p>Provide a presentation titled “My Dad Rocks” that includes the following topics/activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fatherhood facts; 2. Father/child games; 3. Father/father figure; 4. Community involvement on fatherhood movement; and 5. Dads and their kids.
Stark Co. Job & Family Services	<p>Provide a presentation titled “Father’s Day Weekend Fishing Rodeo” that includes the following topics/activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issues facing fatherless; 2. The importance of responsible fatherhood; 3. Informational booths; and 4. Fishing with fathers.
Trumbull Co. Children Services	<p>Provide a presentation titled “Day Out with Daddy” that includes the following topics/activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discreet health screening; 2. Fathers for good health; 3. Healthy lunch – food demonstration; 4. The father’s place in the family; 5. Fathers/children interactions.
Wayman Palmer Community YMCA	<p>Provide a presentation titled “Celebration of Fatherhood” that includes the following topics/activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fatherhood Initiatives proclamation; 2. The importance of responsible fatherhood; 3. The issues of facing fatherless children; 4. Community presentations; 5. Promoting positive parenting; and 6. Father and child interactions.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO OCF BY-LAWS PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CALL ON MARCH 24, 2016

2.05 Conflicts of Interest

In the event that Commission members may have a conflict of interest in matters before the Commission, the actions of Commission members shall be governed by Ohio Ethics Laws. Commissioners are required to complete Ohio Ethics Law training annually. A Commission member with a conflict of interest shall excuse himself or herself from any room or space where any discussion, deliberation or voting regarding the interest is taking place. A Commission member with a conflict of interest shall not discuss with any voting member relative regarding the interest. The Commission members shall not return to the room or space until such time as the Chairperson invites them to return, which shall be after all discussions, deliberations and voting have taken place.

4.01 Committees

- (a) The Commission may establish committees to assist with its statutorily assigned duties.
- (b) The standing committees of the Commission shall be:

The Executive Committee
The Fiscal/Funding Committee
The Summit Committee

- (c) Each committee shall consist of no fewer than three (3) Commission members. The actions of any such committee must be ratified by a simple majority vote of the Commission as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05. The Commission, at least once every two years, shall review the need for the continued existence of any committee created by the Commission.
- (d) The purpose of the Executive Committee is to create Commission meeting agendas, to facilitate strategic planning, to coordinate the work of Commission members and to make recommendations concerning the Executive Director, including, but not limited to, filling the position. Under no circumstances shall the Executive Committee's actions supplant the authority of the full Commission. Actions of the Executive Committee must be ratified by a simple majority vote as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05.

The purpose of the Fiscal/Funding Committee is to provide feedback to the Commission on proposed RFGAs. This Committee will also provide guidance on how OCF accepts and solicits financial gifts to support the work of the Commission as provided for in Bylaw 1.02.

The purpose of the Summit Committee is to assist in the planning of both the statewide fatherhood conference and regional forums to educate the public on the benefits of father involvement and problem of father absence and to enlist the involvement of key stakeholders in local communities to support and encourage responsible fatherhood.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO OCF BY-LAWS PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CALL ON MARCH 24, 2016

- (e) The Commission may create ad hoc committees as the Commission may deem appropriate and necessary. Each ad hoc committee shall consist of at least one Commission member. The actions of any such committee must be ratified by simple majority vote of the Commission as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05.
- (f) Each committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission, and shall be subject to the control and direction of the Commission.
- (g) The Executive Director shall serve as an ex-officio member on all committees.

4.03 Membership on Committees

- (a) At least once a year, the Commission will request that all Commissioners rank their interest in serving on any ad hoc or standing committees, except on the Executive Committee. Members for committees will be selected by the Executive Committee. ~~Commission members are appointed to a committee by the Commission Chairperson and may volunteer to serve on any Committee, and~~ The Commission Chairperson shall appoint one Commission member of each committee to serve as the chairperson of that committee.
- (b) The Committee Chairperson shall design the process to determine formal committee members
- (c) Non-Commission members may serve on committees but shall do so without any compensation or reimbursement.

5.06 Public Meetings

All meetings of the Commission and any of its bodies shall be open to the public, except that the Commission may meet in executive session based upon the majority vote of the Commission as described in section 5.05 of these bylaws and in accordance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Response to H.R. 3005: Julia Carson Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2015

This response does not support, endorse or promote the passage of this proposed bill; rather it provides factual information on the child support topics raised in this proposed legislation.

The Julia Carson Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2015 addresses a number of child support program issues related to father involved -family centered programming. In Ohio, many of the issues raised in the Act have been or are being addressed through specific legislation, grant opportunities, administrative rules or pending federal rules. Ohio and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services county child support programs have been extremely proactive in encouraging father involvement in the lives of their children, removal of barriers and obstacles which inhibit employment, providing fathers opportunities to more effectively manage their cases, parenting and fatherhood programming, pro-active modification processes, the use of behavioral intervention techniques to improve the participation rate in services that will improve the lives of families, workforce programming for unemployed parents, connecting parents to community services, as well as a wide array of other child support family-centered programming,

In **Section 101(a)**, entitled, State Assessments of Barriers to Employment and Financial Support of Children, the proposed Act contains a State Plan requirement that all states provide an assessment to the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding how their state policies have responded to the issues raised in this proposed legislation. Those items on the list, insofar as they pertain to child support issues in Ohio are addressed below.

- **The process of setting and modifying child support obligations, particularly with respect to low income parents, including:**

1(A) The role and criteria for using imputed income in determining child support obligations:

Ohio's child support program understands it must establish realistic expectations on a parent's ability to pay child support if the program is going to be successful in collecting support. The program has taken a "right size" order approach in establishing and modifying orders for a number of years now. The biggest issue surrounding establishing and modifying orders is when parents fail to appear at hearings after being located and properly served notice. In a parent's absence, Magistrates and Hearing Officers must make their determinations on whatever testimony, documentation, and data base information is available at the time of the hearing in order to make reasonable assumptions regarding the parent's income. The program strongly encourages parents to appear and participate in these hearings.

In Ohio, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) §3119.01(C)(11) and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) §5101:12-45-10, entitled, "Calculation of the Support Obligations", courts, prior to establishing a judicial order or the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) in establishing an administrative support order, can impute income to a parent within a child support order, but a determination must be made whether the obligor is voluntarily unemployed or voluntarily underemployed. In determining imputed income, the court or agency must give consideration to the following factors: the parent's prior employment experience, the parent's education, the parent's physical and mental disabilities if any, the availability of employment in the geographic area in which the parent resides, the prevailing wage and salary levels in the geographic area in which the parent resides, the parent's special skills and training, whether there is evidence that the parent has the ability to earn the imputed income, the age and special needs of the child for whom child support is being calculated under this section, the parent's increased earning capacity because of experience, the parent's decreased earning capacity because of a felony conviction, or any other relevant factor.

In accordance with division (I) of section 3119.05 of the Revised Code, unless it would be unjust or inappropriate and therefore not in the best interest of the child, a CSEA shall not determine a parent to be voluntarily unemployed or underemployed and shall not impute income to that parent if either of the following conditions exists:

- (1) The parent is receiving recurring monetary income from means-tested public assistance benefits, including cash assistance payments under the Ohio Works First Program established under Chapter 5107 of the Revised Code, financial assistance under the Disability Financial Assistance Program established under Chapter 5115 of the Revised Code, supplemental security income, or means-tested veterans' benefits.
- (2) The parent is incarcerated or institutionalized for a period of twelve months or more with no other available assets, unless the parent is incarcerated for an offense relating to the abuse or neglect of a child who is the subject of the support order or an offense under Title XXIX of the Revised Code when the obligee or a child who is the subject of the support order is a victim of the offense.

1(B) The process of modifying obligations:

In Ohio, pursuant to ORC §3119.60 and OAC §5101:12-60-05.1, entitled, "Initiation of an Administrative Review", every thirty-six months after the date of the most recent child support order, the agency (CSEA) with administrative responsibility for the child support order shall initiate an administrative review of a case in which the child is currently receiving Ohio Works First benefits. Either party may initiate an administrative review every thirty-six months from the date of the most recent support order by completing or submitting the JFS 01849 form

entitled, "Request for an Administrative Review of the Child Support Order". Either party may initiate an administrative review by submitting the JFS 01849 to the CSEA sooner than thirty-six months when any of one of fourteen reasons outlined in section E of the rule exists.

1(C) the consideration of income and employment status, including efforts to identify unreported income:

The child support enforcement agency (CSEA) uses the basic Ohio child support guidelines (hereafter "guidelines") schedule as set forth in ORC sections 3119.01 to 3119.05 when calculating or adjusting the child support and cash medical support obligations contained within a child support order.

Both parents must provide the court or CSEA documented verification of their incomes for the past six months or provide their most recent income tax returns. The formula combines the father's and mother's gross income. There are certain allowable deductions from each parent's gross income. These deductions include the sum of local income tax actually paid, any child or spousal support order for other children or former spouses, and the value of a federal dependency exemption for each dependent of his or her household (not including the dependents for whom child support has been ordered). Also factored into the charted amount of child support is the cost of work-related or education-related day care expense and major medical insurance coverage for the child.

The CSEA cannot deviate from the guidelines. When a deviation is desired by either party, the requesting party must petition the appropriate court.

As outlined above and in accordance with division (C)(11) of section 3119.01 of the Revised Code, the CSEA may impute potential income to a parent when the CSEA determines that the parent is voluntarily unemployed or underemployed.

Imputed income may be based on what the parent would have earned if fully employed as determined from the criteria listed in response to item one (1) above.

Besides the parent's self-reported income, the CSEAs and courts use a number of techniques to identify parent's unreported income. Tax returns are reviewed to ensure a parent's generated income supports their expenses and life style. Any imbalance of resources vs. expenses is an indicator of unreported income or unearned revenue. Credit reports, state wage information, public records, and state and federal databases are also used to verify parent's income.

1(D) the consideration of incarceration:

In accordance with division (I) of section 3119.05 of the Revised Code, unless it would be unjust or inappropriate and therefore not in the best interest of the child, a CSEA shall not determine a parent to be voluntarily unemployed or underemployed and shall not impute income to that parent if a parent is receiving means tested income or the parent is incarcerated or institutionalized for a period of twelve months or more with no other available assets, unless the parent is incarcerated for an offense relating to the abuse or neglect of a child who is the subject of the support order or an offense under Title XXIX of the Revised Code when the obligee or a child who is the subject of the support order is a victim of the offense.

1(E) the consideration of disability:

As stated in response one (1) and three (3) above, ORC §3119.05 requires that an Ohio court or CSEA consider if the parent has any physical and mental disabilities when considering their ability to pay support. With documented medical evidence regarding a parent's ability to work, a parent's support order may be terminated due to their inability to pay.

1(F) the treatment of arrearages, including interest charged, and laws or procedures that interfere with forgiveness, adjustment, waiver, or compromise of arrears owed to the State by low-income noncustodial parents who lack sufficient assets or physical ability to pay such arrearages:

Ohio does not charge interest on past due support.

Child support arrears owed to a custodial parent may be waived or compromised by agreement of both parties to the case. Pursuant to OAC §5101:12-60-70, entitled, Waiver and Compromise of Permanently Assigned Arrears, permanently assigned arrears (past due support owed to the state for reimbursement of public assistance benefits) may be waived or compromised by a child support enforcement agency and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Permanently assigned arrears include child support, spousal support and medical support assigned to the State of Ohio or another state, based on an assignment of support.

When an obligor submits a written request for waiver or compromise to the CSEA, the CSEA will complete a "Determination Regarding Notification for a Waiver or Compromise of Permanently Assigned Arrears". The CSEA will review any documentation provided by the obligor. If the pending negotiation is for a waiver or compromise of \$5,000 or more, CSEA is required to forward this request to the State Office of Child Support for determination. Once the determination is made, the Obligor will be notified, in writing, of the decision.

If the Obligor's request is denied, the CSEA will issue a notice to the obligor of the denial and the reason for the denial. If the request is approved, it will be journalized in an Agreed Entry, including the terms and conditions of the waiver or compromise and the amount(s).

1(G) the procedures related to retroactive support:

Pursuant to ORC §3119.83, a court or child support enforcement agency may not retroactively modify an obligor's duty to pay a delinquent support payment. However, if paternity has not been established, a juvenile court can order retroactive support for a child up to the age of 23, depending on the individual case circumstances. The Ohio Supreme Court found that "when R.C. 3111.05, which extends the statute of limitations for filing parentage actions to age 23, is read in conjunction with R.C. 3111.13, which gives juvenile courts authority to order retroactive child support, "it appears that the legislature envisioned an award of retroactive child support to an adult emancipated child under R.C. 3111."

"R.C. 3111.05 expressly provides that a paternity action may be commenced up to age 23, five years after the child has reached age 18. R.C. 3111.13(C) provides that a juvenile court has the authority to make a support order once a parentage determination is made. Thus, R.C. 3111.05 extends the length of time in which to bring a parentage action, while R.C. 3111.13(C) is couched in broad language and does not limit a juvenile court's jurisdiction in a parentage action to award retroactive support to minor children only."

1(H) State pass-through and disregard policies for recipients of means-tested public benefits:

A pass-through is the amount of child support forwarded to families on whose behalf it was collected. A pass-through does not financially benefit a family, unless it is also disregarded. A disregard is the amount of child support that the family can keep without lowering their TANF benefits. Recent research has found that:

- 16 states pass-through and disregard \$50 or more of child support per month.
- 3 states pass-through and disregard some or all child support for purposes of fill-the-gap budgeting.
- 2 states do not pass-through child support to families; however their TANF grants are increased.
- 2 states pass-through \$50 per month, but do not disregard that amount for TANF eligibility and benefits. These families do not benefit financially from child support because their TANF benefits are lowered when they receive child support.
- 27 states and the District of Columbia do not pass-through or disregard any child support for families receiving TANF.

Ohio is currently one of the 27 states that do not pass-through or disregard child support for families receiving TANF.

2. The effect of State criminal laws and law enforcement practices on the employment acquisition, retention, and advancement prospects of an individual following arrest, conviction, or incarceration, including—

(A) any efforts, including counseling or employment support, to assist ex-prisoners with reentry to a community and successful reunification with their families; and

(B) an assessment of any efforts to seal or expunge arrest and conviction records and any efforts to grant certificates or other acknowledgments of rehabilitation to ex-prisoners, and to examine State occupational licensing and certification procedures:

On June 26, 2012, Ohio Governor Kasich signed Senate Bill 337 (SB 337), which removes, or creates mechanisms for removing, a wide range of so-called “collateral sanctions” against ex-offenders and prisoners who are reentering society. These collateral consequences create major barriers to prisoner reentry and encourage recidivism of ex-offenders by making it more difficult for them to find a job, attain economic self-sufficiency, and/or gain a stable, productive life. SB 337 limits or reduces many of those barriers. Other states have enacted or are considering similar legislation, but SB 337 is one of the most progressive and far-reaching collateral sanctions laws in the country.

SB 337 became law on September 25, 2012. Key provisions in the final version of SB 337 include:

- Removal of occupational licensing prohibitions for certain occupations including optical dispensers, motor vehicle salvage-related jobs, construction workers, hearing aid dealers and fitters, private investigators, security guards, and cosmetologists.
- Authorizes an ex-offender to apply to the Deputy Director of the Division of Parole and Community Services or the court of common pleas of the county in which the ex-offender resides for a “certificate of qualification for employment” (with an expedited process) for the purpose of removing employment barriers and restrictions in a wide range of occupations - ORC § 2953.25

- Immunity for employers from negligent hiring or retention claims.
- Expanded opportunities for sealing of criminal and juvenile delinquency records -ORC § 2953.31 et seq. and ORC § 2151.356
- Various modifications to juvenile court procedures and its dispositions, including places of detention, sealing of juvenile records, case transfers, etc.
- Driver's license changes—discretionary instead of mandatory suspension; payment of reinstatement fees in installments; reduced penalties for driving under suspension or for violating the state financial responsibility law; and elimination of requirement for suspension of license of any person who is named in a motor vehicle accident report that alleges that the person was uninsured at the time of the accident and the person then fails to give to the Registrar proof of financial responsibility; etc.
- Creates a rebuttable presumption against a court or CSEA imputing income to an incarcerated or institutionalized parent when calculating child support.
- Adds a new child support imputation of income factor (militating against imputing income) for the parent's decreased earning capacity because of a felony conviction.
- Permits a court or CSEA, when calculating child support, to disregard a parent's additional income from overtime or additional employment when the additional income was generated primarily to support a new or additional family member, or under other appropriate circumstances.
- Requires a court or CSEA to collect information about preexisting child support orders for other children of the same parents when calculating a child support order to ensure that the total of all orders for the children of both parents does not exceed the amount that would have been ordered in a single order.
- Permits a court, pursuant to a request made in a contempt action, to grant limited driving privileges to a person whose driver's license is suspended because the person is in default under a child support order.
- Revises the rebuttable presumption against imputing income to a parent who is receiving means-tested public assistance benefits.

3. An assessment of the effect of debt on employment retention, including child support and non-child support debts imposed to recover costs related to welfare and criminal justice.

No child support laws or rules address this issue; however, a number of child support led HHS, ACF, OCSE Employment Demonstration Grants could be gathering this information through their experimental demonstration projects. These projects are described in the next response.

In response to **Section 102 (a)**, entitled, Grants to States to Conduct Demonstration Projects to Promote Economic Opportunity for Low-Income Parents, Court Supervised or IV-D Agency Supervised Employment Programs for Non-Custodial Parents, the Ohio Child Support program agrees that it is uniquely situated to meet the workforce needs of the non-custodial parents within its caseloads. It also acknowledges that this population, unlike TANF recipients, is significantly underserved in the area of workforce and career development. Currently workforce services are an unallowable cost to the IV-D program. However, the Notice of Proposed Rule Making issued by the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) in November, 2014, would open up IV-D funding to provide workforce services to non-custodial parents.

In summary, the proposed rule makes changes to strengthen the Child Support Enforcement program and update current practices in order to increase regular, on-time payments to families, increase the number of noncustodial parents working and supporting their children, and reduce the accumulation of unpaid child support arrears. These changes remove regulatory barriers to cost-effective approaches for improving enforcement consistent with the current knowledge and practices in the field, and informed by many successful state led innovations. In addition, given that three-fourths of child support payments are collected by employers through income withholding, this proposed rule standardizes and streamlines payment processing so that employers are not unduly burdened by this otherwise highly effective support enforcement tool. The rule also removes outdated barriers to electronic communication and document management, updating existing child support regulations which frequently limit methods of storing or communicating information to a written or paper format. Finally, the proposed rule updates the program to reflect the recent Supreme Court decision in *Turner v. Rogers*, 564 U.S. ___, 131 S Ct. 2507 (2011).

On September 30, 2012, OCSE in an effort to engage and involve low-income noncustodial parents who are behind with their child support payments awarded nearly \$6.2 million to child support agencies in eight states to link these parents with employment services. Grant funding was awarded to Ohio along with California, Colorado, Iowa, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin. Wisconsin was also awarded a grant to manage the evaluation of the demonstration projects.

On their website, OCSE reports that studies show most noncustodial parents want to be part of their children's lives and provide financial and emotional support. For a variety of reasons, many find it difficult to find and keep a job.

Officially called the National Child Support Noncustodial Parent Demonstration Projects (CSPED), the grants are intended to reduce barriers to payment and increase employment among noncustodial parents over a five-year period. To that end, child support offices in the project states will provide:

- Child support case management
- Employment-oriented services that include job placement and retention;
- Fatherhood/parenting activities using peer support; and
- Enhanced child support procedures, including the review and appropriate adjustment of child support orders.

“When noncustodial parents do not provide reliable financial support, their children are more likely to grow up in poverty and need public assistance,” said OCSE Commissioner Vicki Turetsky. “Billions of dollars in support go unpaid to children and families each year because parents are out of work and unable to provide it.”

If a parent is unemployed and not paying support, child support agencies have limited tools at their disposal to enforce a parent's financial obligation to provide kids the support they deserve. Unemployed parents who owe child support often cycle in and out of family court, costing courts and the child support system money without producing results.

By linking child support efforts with employment programs, the demonstration projects are expected to increase the number of parents paying child support, increase the financial support kids receive, facilitate better child-parent relationships, and reduce family dependence on public assistance.

Throughout the grant period the effectiveness of the projects will be rigorously evaluated.

“These demonstrations will help us learn more about making child support a stable, reliable source of income that kids can count on throughout childhood and as they grow up,” says Turetsky. “Fatherhood and parenting programming, strengthened by peer support, is an essential part of these grant projects.”

The first CSPED interim report was released September 1, 2015. Here is the link to the preliminary findings:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/programs/css/cspedinterimpl2015.pdf>

In response to **Section 105**, entitled, Ban on Recovery of Medicaid Cost for Births, Ohio no longer seeks reimbursement for Medicaid birthing costs.

As stated above and in response to **Section 106**, entitled, Improved Collection and Distribution of Child Support, Ohio currently does not pass-through or disregard child support for families receiving TANF.

*In response to **Section 106 (C) (2) (d)**, entitled, Restoration of federal funding, there is no comment on this provision.*

In response to **Section 106 (C) (2) (e)**, entitled, Repeal of the Mandatory Fee for Child Support Collection, in Ohio, clients are not required to pay the \$25. application fee. Ohio absorbs the fee.

As stated above and in response to **Section 106 (C) (2) (f)**, entitled, Prohibition on Considering a Period of Incarceration Voluntary Unemployment, Ohio does not determine a parent to be voluntarily unemployed or underemployed and does not impute income to that parent if a parent is receiving means tested income or the parent is incarcerated or institutionalized for a period of twelve months or more with no other available assets.

In response to **Section 106 (C) (2) (g)** Review and Adjustment of Child Support Arrearages upon Request, the CSEAs in Ohio do not currently have administrative authority to modify an arrearage only order. However, the parties may modify the order by agreement or the parties can file an action in court to have the arrears modified. As stated previously, Ohio does have a Waiver and Compromise program that affords clients relief from child support debt if they can demonstrate their inability to pay the order.

The proactive approach taken by Ohio and its child support program to foster father involvement in the lives of their children and to address their issues related to child support is reflected in the above responses. In addition to this information, counties across Ohio are creatively implementing employment and training options for fathers as an alternative to jail for failure to pay child support. The child support program in Ohio is committed to giving fathers the opportunity to succeed and to support their children.

Julia Carson Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2015

Congressman Danny K. Davis and Congressman Andre' Carson

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)/Ohio Department of Job and Family Services appreciates the opportunity to provide thoughts and comments on the Julia Carson Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2015

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood supports the testimony provided by ODJFS Director, Cynthia Dungey as related to the welfare to work and eliminating the brutal cycle of our most vulnerable citizens being confined in the cycle of poverty.

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood recognizes that often times the concern is not the lack of jobs in the market but more the quality workforce available to fulfill these jobs. OCF supports promoting critical education and employment skills so that parents can secure family sustaining wages; therefore, advance toward self-sufficiency.

Ohio has worked diligently toward increasing its work participation rates as well as increasing investments in work support programs to include access to child care assistance for families up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. The leadership in Ohio also recognizes that merely improving percentages is not necessarily parallel to assisting people with obtaining jobs or the education that they need to be successful long-term in the workforce. Providing opportunities for low-income/TANF recipients to develop skills and education that are required in today's market is crucial.

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood was awarded the Health and Human Services, Administration for Families and Children, New Pathways for Fathers and Families \$10 million dollar grant that will begin to focus on young fathers and families in Ohio. The components of the grant activities include responsible parenting, economic stability and co-parenting. A key concept of the economic stability component is subsidized employment for a specific population of fathers who have graduated from the Fatherhood programs and are seeking employment. The four Responsible Fatherhood programs funded by these specific grant dollars have been charged with the responsibility to work with local employers to hire the hard-to-employ population of fathers. OCF plans to subsidize a portion of salaries during this grant period. Fathers will receive comprehensive case planning to ensure that all barriers are addressed. Services will assist fathers with needs such as: high school graduation goals, employment and career goals, responsible parenting, relationship building to include co-parenting, couples counseling, financial literacy, job search, job retention, and career growth.

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood supports the current Waiver and Compromise of State Owed Arrears policy which gives authority for Ohio's Child Support Enforcement Agencies to waive or compromise arrears owed to the State of Ohio. The Commission on Fatherhood also supports "right-sizing" child support orders to fall more in line with the non-custodial parent's ability to pay his/her support order while also having the ability to fund parenting time activities with his/her child.

