



## Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association

For Immediate Release

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### **August is Child Support Awareness Month in Wisconsin**

Governor Evers has proclaimed August 2020 as Child Support Awareness Month in Wisconsin in recognition of the important role the program plays in creating economic security for Wisconsin families. County child support agencies have stepped up throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that Wisconsin children continue to receive needed financial support while working to adjust payments for parents whose incomes have been impacted by the pandemic.

“Child support is the unsung hero of economic security and social service programs. Wisconsin children and families need our services now more than ever due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19,” said WCSEA President Pamela Pipkin. “We thank Governor Evers for promoting awareness of the child support program during this critical time.”

County child support agencies provide services to children as well as custodial and non-custodial parents that reduce childhood poverty rates, establish parental rights and promote the involvement of both parents in the lives of their children. Child support agencies across the state offer job training and employment services to parents. An excellent example of this is the ELEVATE program, launched this year in Brown, Kenosha, Marathon, Racine and Wood Counties, which pilots new ways to provide employment and fatherhood programs to parents paying child support.

“The child support program is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs in the country. Child support payments account for 58% of income for custodial families living in poverty<sup>1</sup>,” said Pipkin.

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[http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational\\_papers/january\\_2019/0042\\_child\\_support\\_enforcement\\_program\\_informational\\_paper\\_42.pdf](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational_papers/january_2019/0042_child_support_enforcement_program_informational_paper_42.pdf)

Wisconsin's Child Support Program is one of the most successful and cost-effective programs in the nation. For every dollar spent on the program, \$6.20 in support is collected. Wisconsin county child support agencies collected more than \$920 million in support during 2019. They also provided services to 627,983 children and established 98,405 health insurance orders.

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