

**FRIEND OF THE COURT
FUNDING AND EXPENDITURES
STRATEGIC GOALS AND INITIATIVES**

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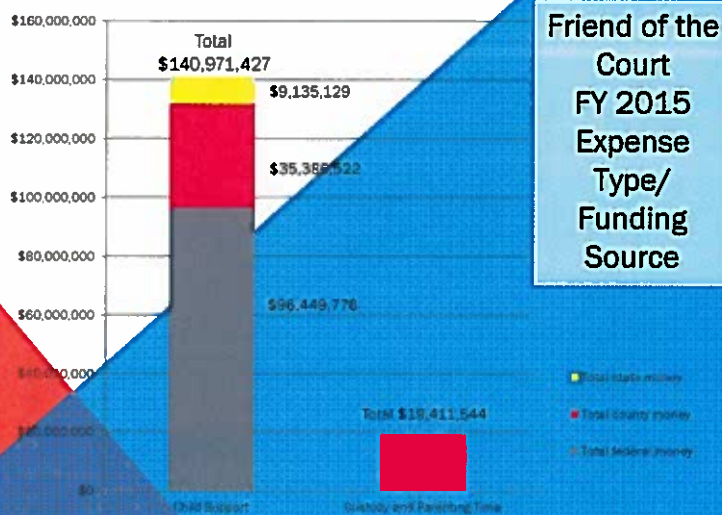
The State Court Administrative Office's Friend of the Court Bureau was created in 1982 by the Friend of the Court Act.

The Friend of the Court Bureau analyzes statistics; reviews laws, regulations, and court rules; and reviews grievances and responses to provide guidelines for friend of the court operations. The FOCB assists circuit courts across the state with management assistance to improve local friend of the court operations. The FOCB also cooperates with the Department of Human Service's Office of Child Support to coordinate FOC offices in providing Title IV-D services.

SOURCES OF FOC FUNDING

- FEDERAL 66% REIMBURSEMENT OF ALL CHILD-SUPPORT RELATED EXPENSES
- COUNTY FUNDS (PRIMARYLY GENERAL FUNDS, SOME FEES AND COSTS)
- FEDERAL INCENTIVES REQUIRED TO BE USED FOR ENFORCING CHILD SUPPORT
- 15% OF MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT COLLECTED BY THE FOC PAID OUT OF FEDERAL SHARE OF REIMBURSEMENT
- SMALL FEDERAL PARENTING TIME GRANT

FRIEND OF THE COURT EXPENDITURES



WHY THE DIFFERENCE IN EXPENSE

CASE CHARACTERISTICS - THREE MAJOR TYPES

- **Divorce 32%**
 - Custody, Parenting Time, and Support are Major Issues
 - Usually Need Least FOC Enforcement
- **Family Support Act Cases 30%**
 - Child Support is Primary Issue
 - Often Parenting Time is Not in Order
 - Often Need FOC Enforcement
- **Paternity Act Cases 31%**
 - Establishing Father and Support is Primary Issue
 - Often Parenting Time is Not in Order
 - Often Need FOC Enforcement

WHY THE DIFFERENCE IN EXPENSE

- Support tends to be an ongoing problem in cases where it is not paid
 - Often parties fail to appear
- Parenting Time tends to be a one-time issue
 - Usually both parents participate

STRATEGIC PLAN

- **HOLISTIC APPROACH**
 - Better understand FOC users and develop person-specific strategies to serve them
 - Eliminate barriers to family-formation
- **RIGHT-SIZE ORDERS**
 - More support reviews at FOC initiative
 - Find ways to encourage parents to participate
- **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**
 - Non-traditional approaches
 - Demystify process
 - Technology

EXAMPLES OF NEW INITIATIVES TO IMPLEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

- **ADAPT - ACQUIRING DNA AND PATERNITY TIMELY**
- **REACH - REFERRAL FOR EMPLOYMENT, ASSET DEVELOPMENT, COOPERATION, AND HOPE**
- **SEED - SPECIALTY ESTABLISHMENT & ENFORCEMENT DOCKET**

ADAPT

- EDUCATE UNMARRIED PARENTS IN BIRTHING HOSPITAL PRENATAL CLASSES ABOUT ESTABLISHING PATERNITY FOR THEIR CHILD AND HOW THEY CAN ADDRESS POTENTIAL CUSTODY, PARENTING TIME AND SUPPORT ISSUES AFTER THEIR CHILD IS BORN
- SET EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTING TIME AND SUPPORT
- ASSIST PARENTS IN REACHING AGREEMENTS IN ADVANCE OF BIRTH
- OFFER GENETIC TESTING
- ENTER ORDER IMMEDIATELY AFTER BIRTH IF PARTIES AGREE

REACH

- WORKED WITH LOW TO NO INCOME SUPPORT PAYERS TO HELP THEM SECURE EMPLOYMENT
- WORKED WITH LOW TO NO INCOME SUPPORT PAYERS TO IMPROVE PARENTING TIME
- WORKED WITH LOW TO NO INCOME SUPPORT PAYERS TO HELP THEM LEARN HOW TO MANAGE MONEY

SEED

- WHEN CASES COME IN TO ESTABLISH PATERNITY AND SUPPORT, EVALUATE FAMILIES FOR RISK TO SUCCESS
- REFER FAMILIES TO SERVICES TO ENSURE ABILITY TO PAY SUPPORT AND ENSURE PARENTING TIME
- MONTHLY REVIEW HEARINGS ADJUST FAMILY PLAN AND MONITOR SUCCESS
- SUPPORT GROUPS TO ASSIST WITH BASIC LIFE SKILLS

SOME MICHIGAN STATISTICS*

AMOUNT OF SUPPORT COLLECTED:
\$1,324,210,000

AMOUNT OF SUPPORT DISTRIBUTED
AS A PERCENTAGE DUE: 70.57%

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CHILD
SUPPORT CASES: 881,557

*FY 2015 OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ANNUAL REPORT TO
COAGERS