

Infographic: How many families might be newly reached by child support cooperation requirements in SNAP and subsidized child care and what are their characteristics?

### Child Support Cooperation Policy

Parents are required to cooperate with the child support enforcement program (often referred to as the IV-D program) as a condition of receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, and foster care maintenance payments under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. States have flexibility to require a person who receives other means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), subsidized child care and housing subsidies to cooperate with the child support enforcement program. There is a great deal of variation in which states have cooperation requirements, and how they are administered and enforced. Recent policy conversations have identified custodial and noncustodial parents that receive SNAP or child care subsidies and do not have formal child support orders, as potential beneficiaries of child support services.

### Map of the United States

States with SNAP and child care cooperation requirements in child support include Idaho, South Dakota, Kansas, Mississippi, Michigan, and Maine.

States with SNAP cooperation requirements in child support include Florida.

States with child support cooperation requirements only in child care include Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

For custodial parents, a formal order is defined as having a legal or pending legal order or legal arrangement. For noncustodial parents, a formal order indicates the noncustodial parent is required to pay child support under a legal order or legal arrangement.

The number of noncustodial parents with or without a formal order is eleven point seven million. Fifty-six percent do not have a formal order. An estimated 1 million noncustodial parents are institutionalized and not counted in this data.

The number of custodial parents with or without a formal order is twelve point six million. Fifty-three percent do not have a formal child support order.

Parents without formal child support orders are more likely to be poor than those parents with formal child support orders. Three point five million custodial parents are poor and two point one million noncustodial parents are poor. Child support represents over half of the income of the poor families that receive it.

Two point eight million custodial parents without a formal order are eligible for SNAP. Of these individuals, two point seven million receive benefits. The SNAP take-up rate among custodial parents without a formal order is ninety-six percent.

One point nine million noncustodial parents without a formal order are eligible for SNAP. Of these individuals, one point five million receive benefits.

One quarter of custodial parents without formal child support orders are eligible for child care subsidies and four percent receive them.

Prepared by Lauren Antelo and Erica Meade, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. The estimates presented are based on TRIM3 analysis of the 2016 Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement (CPS-CSS) match file and the 2016 CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS-ASEC). Special thanks to the Urban Institute TRIM3 team, especially Laura Wheaton, Alyssa Harris, and Ben Goehring.