Connecting Parents with Child Support Obligations to Employment: The Value of Child Support Partnerships

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What is the need for employment services?

• 1/3rd of the families with a monthly child support order receive no payments,

What do we know about the 31,000 Zero Payers?

• 76% = no current employment information
• 70% = known address
• 79% = known phone number
• 29% = known email address
• 37% = have paid child support in the last three months
Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration (Colorado is one of eight participating states)

- Colorado Parent Employment Project (Co-PEP)
  - 4 urban counties and 1 rural county

- Co-PEP Services:
  - Job search assistance and job readiness training, assistance with transportation, job placement/development, work clothes, and education directly related to employment, including education to obtain a GED.
  - Collaboration with RE-HIRE Colorado vendors to utilize transitional job possibilities with NCPs
  - Proactively review and right size child support orders
  - Suspend automated enforcement activities for participating parents
  - Arrears forgiveness – 10% per payment up to 50%
  - Fatherhood/Parenting – 16 hour curriculum
Participation Rates of Parents in Enhanced Services Offered through Co-PEP

Chart 2: Specialized Service Received by CO-PEP Enrollees (N = 730)

- Intensive Care Management: 96%
- Employment Services: 92%
- Child Support Services: 88%
- Responsible Fatherhood Workshop: 42%
Employment Successes of Parents in the Enhanced Services Group

Extra-Services Enrollees’ Employment

Employed by the end of the 6th month of enrollment. (n=749)

Parents who are employed pay their child support
Next Steps:

Design, pilot and implement a 2Gen transformation to the Colorado Child Support Services Program that builds on Co-PEP