



## News Release

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### **Arapahoe County saw record year in 2012 for child support services**

*Child Support Division received State award for meeting every required goal*

**Aurora, Colo.** – More parents turned to Arapahoe County’s Child Support Enforcement Division in 2012 than ever before to get help with establishing, modifying or enforcing a child support or medical support order. Despite record-high caseloads, Arapahoe was the only one of Colorado’s 10 large metropolitan counties to meet every required State goal for child support services last year.

The County received its third Certificate of Excellence from the Colorado Department of Human Services’ Division of Child Support in March for meeting every measure that ensures financial support and medical coverage for children.

“Arapahoe County Child Support Enforcement has made great strides by listening to parents and helping them to overcome barriers to economic security,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Sharpe. “The Division has become a model in Colorado for innovative services, such as job search assistance, mediation and parenting classes to help families support their children.”

In 2012, Arapahoe County served a record-high 14,339 child support cases, representing 9.4 percent of the state’s total caseload. It was the most effective county in Colorado at working with non-custodial parties to get child and medical support paid, with nearly 65 percent of cases with current support paid and more than 71 percent of arrears cases with a payment. The County collected over \$35.1 million in child support for children, which was \$775,000 more than in 2011.

Arapahoe County has established a child support order on 86.6 percent of cases and a medical support order on 91.8 percent. It has established paternity on nearly 96 percent of cases, ensuring that fathers are identified and helping to support children in Arapahoe County.

“We measure success by the ways that we help families to eliminate poverty in children’s lives,” said Child Support Enforcement Division Manager Bob Prevost. “Behind each of these performance numbers is a real child who is now getting the support they need and deserve from both parents.”

For every public dollar spent on the Division’s operations, the division collected approximately \$7 in child support for the County’s youth.

Arapahoe County has designed and implemented many cost-saving techniques to provide better child support services. The Child Support Enforcement Division focuses on engaging parents earlier through letters and phone calls, before the legal system gets involved.

It offers incentives to fathers to cooperate and undergo genetic testing to establish paternity. It also partners with the Office of Dispute Resolution to offer free mediation services to help parents communicate and make decisions about their children.

The Division also collaborates with the Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center to offer job search assistance and training to non-custodial parents who are struggling to pay child support. The Parents to Work Program served 226 parents in 2012 and assisted 115 with finding full-time employment at an average hourly wage of \$11.12. These parents now earn a combined \$51,752 in wages each week to assist with supporting themselves and their children.

To request child support services for a child living in Arapahoe County, please call 303-752-8900 or visit [www.arapahoegov.com](http://www.arapahoegov.com) and click on 'Departments' and then 'Human Services.'

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**Photos Available for Download:** <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/ChildSupport>

**CSETeam.jpg:** Arapahoe County's Child Support Enforcement team achieved the highest results of any county in 2012 at working with parents to pay child and medical support.

**CSEAward:** Arapahoe County Child Support Enforcement Division received the 2012 Certificate of Excellence from the State Department of Human Services for meeting every required measure.

*Pictured (left to right):*

**Julie Kersick**, Deputy Director, Colorado Department of Human Services Office of Economic Security

**Bill Holen**, Arapahoe County Commissioner

**Paulette St. James**, Director, Colorado Division of Child Support

**Bob Prevost**, Manager of Arapahoe County Child Support Enforcement Division;

**Cheryl Ternes**, Director of Arapahoe County Department of Human Services;

**Nancy Sharpe**, Arapahoe County Commissioner

**Nancy Jackson**, Arapahoe County Commissioner