



News Release

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Arapahoe County leads Colorado's counties in child support *Child Support Enforcement Division receives state award for 2010 performance*

Aurora, Colo. – Arapahoe County's Child Support Enforcement Division was recognized by the State for meeting all required measures in 2010 that help children get the support they need and deserve from both parents.

The County received a Certificate of Excellence from the Colorado Department of Human Services' Division of Child Support for meeting every required measure for ensuring financial support and medical coverage for children. In addition to meeting every goal, the County led the 10 largest counties in four out of six measures.

"Arapahoe County Child Support Enforcement team has embraced technology, collaboration and innovation in order to ensure that parents fulfill their responsibility to support their children," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Jackson. "We are proud that this team continues to earn recognition for its commitment to excellent quality and service for the families of our County."

Arapahoe County Child Support Enforcement works to locate non-custodial parents and to establish, modify or enforce child support and medical support orders. It also works to establish paternity for children born out of wedlock who do not have a father listed on the birth certificate. It does this by providing genetic testing or giving fathers the option to waive testing and acknowledge paternity. The Division also helps non-custodial parents with overcoming barriers and meeting their support obligation by providing job search and employment assistance.

In 2010, the County handled 13,648 child support cases, representing 9 percent of the State's total caseload, and collected \$34 million in child support for children. Arapahoe County was the most effective in Colorado at working with non-custodial parties to get child and medical support paid, with 65.2 percent of cases with current support paid, 73.9 percent of arrears cases with a payment and 50.6 percent of cases with medical support provided.

The Division achieved the highest increase in caseload with orders, at 85.2 percent, ensuring that more support will go children in Arapahoe County. It also surpassed the State's goal with 90.8 percent paternity establishment in 2010.

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The Division also achieved a cost-effectiveness ratio of \$6.83, meaning that for every public dollar spent on operations, it collected \$6.83 in child support for the County's youth.

Arapahoe County Child Support Enforcement has designed and implemented many cost-saving techniques to provide better service to clients, such as moving to an online application, partnering with the Office of Dispute Resolution to offer free mediation services, and collaborating with the Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center to offer assistance to unemployed or under-employed parents.

The Division also worked in 2010 to modify all withholding orders for parents who are paid weekly and bi-weekly. Since child support is paid monthly to the custodial party, the withholdings from non-custodial parents' paychecks were not adding up to the correct amount each month. This effort resulted in approximately 1,500 fewer phone calls each month from concerned parents and employers.

"Our Division has worked very hard to engage both parties in fair and helpful processes to ensure that children receive the support they need and deserve. It is a true honor to receive this recognition from the State, but the greater reward is seeing the help that we are providing to children and families," said Child Support Enforcement Division Manager Bob Prevost.

If you need assistance with establishing, modifying or enforcing a child support order, please call 303-752-8900 or visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Departments/HS/.

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To download photos, click on the following link:

<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/ChildSupport>

CSE Team: Arapahoe County's Child Support Enforcement team achieved the highest results of any county in 2010 at working with parents for child and medical support.

CSE Award: Arapahoe County Child Support Enforcement Division received the 2010 Certificate of Excellence from the State Department of Human Services for meeting every required goal.

Pictured (left to right): **John Bernhart**, Director of Colorado Department of Human Services Child Support Enforcement; **Bob Prevost**, Manager of Arapahoe County Child Support Enforcement Division; **Cheryl Ternes**, Director of Arapahoe County Department of Human Services; **Commissioner Nancy Jackson**, Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners