



HANDBOOK

Ohio County Commissioners

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CHAPTER 46

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

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46.01 INTRODUCTION

ORC Section 3125.10 requires every county to establish a single child support enforcement agency (CSEA) to collect financial support for children from non-custodial parents who are responsible for them. The need for such government intervention goes back a long way in the history of Ohio courts relating to divorce procedures.

In 1969, all counties were required to establish a bureau of support under the courts to collect and disburse such payments. However, in the 1970's, the public and U. S. Congress were concerned about increasing numbers of parents who were neglecting their responsibilities to support their children and that 85 percent of children on public assistance were receiving assistance because parents were not supporting them as required. This growing concern led Congress to pass Title IV-D of the Social Security Act in 1975 to provide federal reimbursement to states to pursue child support enforcement.

Federal reimbursement began at 75% and gradually has been reduced to 66%. The federal government imposed regulations on states to continue receiving IV-D funding and these regulations have multiplied many fold.

While the federal IV-D program dictates much of the child support enforcement procedure, not all child support cases in Ohio are IV-D cases and the county CSEA and courts must pursue and collect support for all children to whom support is due regardless of whether the county receives federal or state reimbursement. The Ohio

Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is the supervising agency for the IV-D program in Ohio.

See Section 45.09 for a review of the central role of commissioners in child support enforcement.

46.02 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ESTABLISHING A CSEA

46.021 DESIGNATING THE CSEA (ORC 3125.10)

Each county must have a child support enforcement agency. A government entity the county designated prior to October 1, 1997 (under former ORC Section 2301.35,) or a government or private entity the county designated after that date under current law may continue to serve as the county CSEA. The following are entities the county may designate as the CSEA:

1. The county department of job and family services (CDJFS).
2. The office of the county prosecuting attorney.
3. A bureau within the court of common pleas.
4. A separate, free-standing agency under the direct control of the county commissioners and administered by an official the commissioners appoint.

As of December 2011, there are 67 CDJFS, 16 free standing, and 5 prosecutor agencies operating CSEAs, as detailed in Table 46-1 at the end of this Chapter.

46.022 COMMISSIONERS REDESIGNATING A CSEA (OAC 5101:9-1-22 and 5101:9-1-23)

ODJFS has implemented a procedure for counties planning to merge or separate family services agencies. Prior to merging or separating, a CDJFS must meet the requirements laid out in Ohio administrative rule.

1. MERGING AGENCIES

Merging agencies must seek and receive approval from the commissioners to combine prior to the merger date. The commissioners must notify ODJFS by resolution of intent 90 days before the proposed merger date. Upon commissioner approval, combining agencies must develop a plan outlining the changes necessary to remain in compliance with the ODJFS federally-approved cost allocation plan (CAP). The county must submit final plans to ODJFS no later than 60 days before the proposed merger date. Plans must include certain information and timelines regarding necessary changes to the random moment sample (RMS) time study and associated cost pools. For additional information

on RMS refer to Section 43.14, *County Human Service Agencies: Shared Costs and Random Moment Sample Allocations* of this Handbook.

Newly combined agencies also must meet financial reporting requirements by reporting combined administrative costs and reconciling administrative costs. Shared costs are indirect costs incurred for a common purpose and benefit more than one cost center. Combined agencies must place shared costs in the shared cost pool and develop a system for the transfer process from the Public Children Service Agency fund or the CSEA administrative fund to the Public Assistance fund.

2. SEPARATING AGENCIES

A board of commissioners may determine to change the organizational structure of an agency by separating a CSEA from a combined agency and creating a stand-alone agency.

Prior to separating any CSEA from a CDJFS, the commissioners must notify ODJFS by resolution of intent 90 days before the proposed separation date. The commissioners must submit notification of intent to change the organizational structure of the combined agency to the county's assigned ODJFS fiscal supervisor. The ODJFS fiscal supervisor will notify the ODJFS Office of Fiscal Services, and if applicable, the appropriate ODJFS program area.

Just as for merging agencies, affected agencies must develop a plan outlining the changes necessary to remain in compliance with the ODJFS federally-approved CAP. The county must submit final plans to ODJFS no later than 60 days before the proposed separation date. Plans should include certain information and timelines regarding, but not limited to, necessary changes to the random moment sample (RMS) time study and associated cost pools to ensure compliance with the ODJFS CAP.

46.03 CSEA RESPONSIBILITIES (ORC 3125.03)

Each county is required to establish a separate CSEA. The CSEA is responsible for making child support services available to those in the county in need of services and carrying out the state and federal IV-D child support program requirements. Those responsibilities consist of the following primary functions:

1. LOCATION OF NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS (45 CFR 303.3)

Within no more than 75 calendar days of determining that location is necessary, the CSEA must access all appropriate locate sources and ensure that locate information is sufficient to take the next action.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY (45 CRF 303.4 and 303.5)

CSEAs must file for paternity establishment or complete service of process within 90 calendar days of locating the alleged father.

For all cases referred to the IV-D agency or applying for services in which paternity has not been established, the IV-D agency must do both of the following, as appropriate:

- a. Provide an alleged father the opportunity to acknowledge paternity voluntarily;
 - b. Attempt to establish paternity by legal process established under state law.
- ## 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT (45 CFR 303.3 and 303.4 and ORC 3119.02 and 3119.03)

The CSEA and county prosecutor must establish an order for support or complete service of process within 90 calendar days of locating the non-custodial parent. The state must establish guidelines defining diligent efforts to serve process, including periodically reporting service of process attempts in cases in which previous attempts have failed, but adequate identifying and other information exists to attempt service of process. If the court or administrative authority dismisses a petition for support without prejudice, the CSEA must examine the reasons for dismissal, determine when it can seek an order in the future, and refile the petition for support.

The CSEA files with the court for the court to establish a court support order when the court is already involved (for example, there is a pending custody hearing or the child is adopted); the CSEA issued an administrative paternity establishment order but a substantial amount of time has passed; an "Acknowledgement of Paternity Affidavit" is final but neither of the parents asked the CSEA to establish an administrative child support order; the non-custodial parent is the mother; or the child was conceived by artificial insemination.

The CSEA establishes an administrative child support order when the CSEA has just issued an administrative paternity establishment order; when an "Acknowledgement of Paternity Affidavit" is final and one of the parents asked the CSEA to establish an administrative child support order; or when there is a presumption of paternity and the CSEA receives a request to establish an administrative child support order.

Once the administrative child support order is issued, both parties have a right to file with the court to object to the order.

In Ohio, the amount of child support a parent is responsible to pay depends on the income and assets of both parents. The CSEA or the court will use the "Ohio Child Support Guidelines" to determine the child support amount. The basic schedule of support guidelines is set in statute in statute. In addition, CSEAs and the courts have the ability to modify a child support order based on income or other changes that may adjust the amount of support owed upward or downward.

4. ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT (45 CFR 303.6, ORC 3123)

Unless service of process is necessary, CSEAs will take any appropriate enforcement action within no more than 30 calendar days of identifying a delinquency. If service of process is necessary, service must be completed within 60 calendar days of identifying a delinquency. When enforcement attempts fail, the CSEA will determine the reason for the failure and when it would be appropriate to take enforcement action in the future.

CSEAs have a wide variety of enforcement actions. Most commonly, income withholding is used. Other actions include: tax offsets, credit reporting, professional and driver license suspension, publishing of "most wanted" obligor posters, and both civil and criminal statutes including jail time.

5. COLLECTION OF SUPPORT (ORC 3121.02, 3121.44, and 3121.45)

A court, if the order is a court order, or the CSEA, if the order is an administrative order, must require the withholding or deduction of income or assets of the obligor for collection of support.

All support must be paid through the CSEA. Support an obligor pays directly to an obligee is considered a gift and is not applied to the obligor's legal child support obligation.

6. DISBURSEMENT OF SUPPORT (ORC 3121.50)

On receipt of any amount from a payor or financial institution, the Office of Child Support within ODJFS must distribute the amount to the obligee within two business days of receipt.

7. RECORD KEEPING (ORC 3125.15)

The CSEA must maintain records of support orders being administered or otherwise handled by the agency.

8. MEDICAL SUPPORT (ORC 3119.30 and OAC 5101:12-47-01)

The CSEA is responsible for establishing and enforcing health insurance orders for child support cases when coverage is available and reasonable or expected

to become available. Health insurance coverage is considered available and reasonable if it can be obtained by a parent through the parent's employer or other group health insurance plan and the cost does not exceed 5% of the parent's gross income. If health insurance is not available and/or reasonable, a cash medical payment may be ordered to reimburse the state for Medicaid coverage.

46.031 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS (45 CFR 302.34 and 303.107 and ORC 3125.14)

Each CSEA must enter into written agreements with the courts, prosecuting attorney, and law enforcement officials of the county it serves that establish cooperative working arrangements and specify areas of responsibility for the enforcement of support among the agency, courts, and officials. The agreements must provide for the reimbursement of the courts and law enforcement officials for the responsibilities they assume and actions they undertake pursuant to the agreements.

In addition, all county family service agencies must, per OAC 5101:9-1-10, create a countywide cost allocation plan through which indirect costs may be charged by the commissioners to the agency. See Section 43.15 of this *Handbook, County Human Services Agencies: Indirect Costs* for more information.

46.032 CSEA AUTHORITY TO HIRE STAFF ATTORNEYS (ORC 3125.17)

Without the authorization of the court of common pleas or the consent of the prosecuting attorney, the CSEA may employ staff attorneys to advise, assist, and represent the agency in its functions pertaining to enforcement of support orders. This is in addition to other options open to the agency to obtain legal services, including by contract with the prosecuting attorney or through competitive bid.

46.033 IV-D / NON IV-D CASES (OAC 5101:12-10-01 and 5101:12-1-10)

A child support case only is considered a federal IV-D case if a signed application is on file. Since Ohio law provides for all child support cases to be enforced and collected through the CSEA, the CSEA must provide those services whether or not a person applies for IV-D eligibility. Therefore, many CSEAs are handling a significant number of non-IV-D cases. This means that the CSEA is not entitled to IV-D reimbursement for administration of these cases and must report them separately.

CSEAs must provide support enforcement program services to both IV-D and non IV-D cases. These services include the following:

1. Location services.
2. Establishment of parentage.

3. Establishment and modification of child support and medical support orders.
4. Enforcement of support orders.
5. Collection of support obligations.
6. Any other actions appropriate to child support enforcement.

IV-D cases are entitled to the following additional services:

1. Federal income tax offset.
2. Withholding of support from unemployment compensation.
3. Request to IRS for disclosure of taxpayer information for use in establishing and collecting support obligations.
4. Submitting cases to federal court.

46.04 CSEA FUNDING

Funding for child support enforcement is a combination of federal administrative funds and incentives, state administrative funds, county funds, and fees. Regardless of what local agency is designated to operate the CSEA, all administrative funds must be deposited and disbursed through a separate CSEA administrative account. Should activities be required of the CSEA in federal or state law for which there is not adequate funding, commissioners are responsible for ensuring mandated activities can still occur. This could mean allocating additional resources or creating additional efficiencies. At times the establishment of additional efficiencies could result in a reduction in quality and services provided.

46.05 PAYMENT COLLECTION (OAC 5101:12-80-05.1)

Prior law required that a CSEA establish separate depository accounts from which payments were made to the custodial parent. However, that law has been repealed, and the ODJFS Office of Child Support is now responsible for the collection and disbursement of virtually all child support payments in the state.

Child Support Payment Central (CSPC) was developed by ODJFS' Office of Child Support (OCS), in response to Federal legislation mandating the implementation and operation of a state disbursement unit for collecting and disbursing child support payments. All child support payments must be processed by CSPC.

State law provides the county Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) with the option to accept walk-in payments from obligors who visit the agency in person, but does not allow obligees to mail payments to the CSEA. Some counties have utilized the

Treasurer's office or Clerk of Courts to accept payments because they already have cash controls and staff that perform those functions.

In October 2009, Ohio passed a law to require employers with more than 50 employees to remit payments electronically. With this legislation, Ohio joins several other states with a similar requirement. Nearly all of Ohio's child support disbursements are made electronically. Child support payments are also made directly to the custodial parent by ODJFS' CSPC. The custodial parent is given two options by which to receive payments: Direct Deposit and the Ohio e-QuickPay® Debit MasterCard®.

46.06 CHILD SUPPORT ADMINISTRATIVE FUND (OAC 5101:9-6-83)

Each CSEA must create an administrative fund for operating a child support program. Included in this fund are the following monies:

1. Federal, state, and local revenues.
2. Federal incentives.
3. Processing charges, formerly referred to as poundage (ORC 3119.27).
4. Application fees and other miscellaneous fees.
5. Investment income.
6. Unclaimed collections that have lost unclaimed status.
7. Fines that the CSEA has retained.
8. Incentives from cash medical collections.

The following are disbursements that may be made from the administrative fund:

1. Allocated shared costs for combined agencies to the Public Assistance fund.
2. Countywide central services costs assigned to the CSEA identified in the county's indirect cost allocation plan.
3. Title IV-D and non IV-D operating expenses.
4. Administrative expenses related to operating the child support program.

46.07 FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS

Federal administrative funds are available at a match rate of 66% federal to 34% state and local funds to reimburse states and counties for all allowable costs incurred in

pursuing location, establishment of paternity, establishment of court orders, enforcement of court orders, collection of support, disbursement of support, and the necessary reporting and record keeping. There is no limit on the amount of federal funding available for match. Dollars for the program are limited only by the ability of state and local government to match.

46.08 FEDERAL INCENTIVE FUNDS (45 CFR 304.12)

The federal government provides incentive funds based upon collections and performance in states. All states compete for a set amount of funds. The collections base or potential incentive earnings is based upon the following formula: $(2 \times (\text{TANF} + \text{former TANF collections} + \text{Medicaid collections})) + \text{never TANF Collections}$.

The county child support director can provide additional information on this federal formula. Essentially, it calls for collections for families who were never on TANF to be counted once, while collections for families who are currently or had previously been receiving TANF or Medicaid are counted twice. Essentially, there is a higher performance incentive for successfully serving the latter population because this demographic is typically more unlikely to receive regular support payments.

This creates the potential share of the pot for Ohio. Then all of the following categories are used to measure performance of the state, and assigned specific percentages that the categories are worth for Ohio's potential share:

1. 25% is dedicated to parentage establishment;
2. 25% is based on support establishment;
3. 25% is tied to collections on current support;
4. 15% is dedicated to collections on arrears;
5. 10% is based on cost effectiveness.

If Ohio is performing over 80%, then all of the incentives possible for that category are earned. There is a table for performance between 50% and 79% that outlines the amount of earnings for the category. If performance is below 50%, or \$2.00, then the state does not earn any incentives for that category.

Currently, the state passes all incentives Ohio earns from the federal government to counties (OAC 5101:12-1-54.1). A county receives all incentives primarily based upon their respective share of the state's collections base. However, if a county's performance has dropped from one year to the following year, the federal government holds back a small piece of the incentive earnings.

The current rule regarding holdbacks and required plans for improvement is being held in abeyance as another performance program is being developed. Therefore, for the next two years, counties will not experience holdbacks.

Special Note: The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 prohibited incentive dollars from being treated like local funds and used against the Federal Financial Participation, which is 66% of the eligible expenditures. While this capability was lost for federal fiscal year 2008, it was reinstated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for FFY 2009 and 2010, and expired on September 30, 2010. The loss of the incentive match caused Ohio to lose approximately \$58 million (2 times \$29M, the amount of federal incentives earned) of spending power, or almost 27% of county expenditures at that time. In addition, when the incentive match was first lost in 2008, the state replaced those lost federal funds with state GRF. However, upon losing this ability the second time in 2010, the state invested only an additional \$7M of GRF, bringing the loss of revenue to CSEAs down to approximately \$37M, because the \$7M in state GRF draws down an additional \$14M in federal match or a total of \$21M ($\$58M - \$21M = \$37M$.)

46.09 STATE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS/ALLOCATION (OAC 5101:9-6-80)

The state child support allocation assists in providing the non-federal share of allowable administrative expenditures incurred in administration of the IV-D program. State funds appropriated as state child support match are allocated to CSEAs based on the following formula:

1. A \$15,000 base allocation to each county.
2. One-half of the remaining balance based on the number of children out-of-wedlock percentages compared to the number statewide.
3. The remaining balance based on the number of children in the county whose parents have received divorces or dissolutions compared to the number statewide.

For items 2 and 3 above, the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Supreme Court, respectively, provide the numbers for the most recent year. The Supreme Court numbers come from local courts that are responsible for domestic divorces and dissolutions – as such, the accuracy of these numbers is important for both reporting and funding purposes. Since 2001, the state has allocated a total of \$16.8 million to CSEAs per state fiscal year.

46.10 PROCESSING CHARGES (ORC 3119.27)

A court or CSEA that issues or modifies a court support or administrative child support order, respectively, must collect as part of that order a processing charge that is either 2% of the support payment or \$1 per month, whichever is greater. Processing charges help the court or CSEA recoup administrative costs for issuing and modifying orders.

This processing charge used to be commonly referred to as a “poundage fee,” but statute now prohibits courts or agencies from calling the charge a “poundage fee.”

46.11 COUNTY FUNDS

There is no formulaic, or specific requirement for local resources to match state or federal allocations for child support enforcement. However, the local CSEA may be in need of additional resources to cover establishment and enforcement activities not funded adequately through federal and state administrative funds, incentives, processing fees, etc. In addition, county resources could be required to pay for non-IV-D case activities.

It could be argued that if the CSEA sets its budget to limit its activity to what can be covered by these other sources of funds, there is no required level of county fund participation except as required by the maintenance of effort in Section 45.048 below. However, the CSEA is held to performance standards which, if not met, may result in fiscal sanctions payable from county funds. Therefore, the decision regarding the level of county funds to be committed to child support enforcement should be made with the performance standards and the potential consequences in mind.

It should also be noted that any one county dollar spent on IV-D expenditures permits the ability to spend three dollars because of the federal matching capabilities. This 2-1 matching program is one of the highest federal matches in any human service program, and can be important for both court and law enforcement funding through their role in child support enforcement activities.

46.12 MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (OAC 5101:12-1-54.1(I)(3))

A CSEA may not reduce its IV-D expenditures as a result of receiving and reinvesting incentive payments according to federal regulations (45 CFR 305.35(c),(d)). An evaluation of IV-D expenditures will be developed to establish a base period using an average of the three previous fiscal years. This average will be the IV-D expenditures level that the CSEA must maintain in future years. The CSEA must use incentive payments in addition to, and not in lieu of, the base amount.

46.13 PROGRAM INCOME (OAC 5101:12-1-53)

Program income is revenue resulting from IV-D case activity and deducted from expenditures presented for federal reimbursement. Program income is not eligible for match with federal funds. Program income includes all of the following:

1. Processing charges collected on IV-D cases.
2. Any amount earned on investment of IV-D collections, such as interest earned from collections made on behalf of child support.

3. Fees.

Any fees the CSEA collects must be treated as program income, including the following:

- a. Clerk of courts fees.
- b. Court costs.
- c. Genetic testing for paternity determination the CSEA makes.
- d. IV-D application fees if the CSEA does not absorb them.
- e. Miscellaneous fees, such as the cost of providing copies of records.
- f. Unclaimed funds.

45.14 CHILD SUPPORT IN THE COUNTY BUDGET

CSEA expenditures must be appropriated in the county budget process. The commissioners must appropriate county, state, and federal dollars as follows:

1. State and federal dollars.
 - a. The amount of the state administrative allocation plus the federal dollars generated by that allocation.
 - b. The amount of the federal incentives the CSEA is estimated to earn.
 - c. Program income (fees, etc.).
2. County dollars
 - a. As discussed in Section 45.11 of this chapter, the county may be responsible for providing resources to cover expenditures not covered by program income or state dollars. Because local dollars invested in the child support enforcement program receive a 2:1 federal match, the county would essentially be responsible for only 34% of additional necessary funding; meaning that every county dollar invested in CSEA operations will draw down two federal dollars. In other words, each county dollar removed from the CSEA budget means that \$3 must be taken out of the agency's total budget.

The commissioners need only budget the administrative expenditures through the special administrative account. Actual child support funds collected from obligors are both collected and disbursed by ODJFS' Office of Child Support without involvement of

the county auditor, so there is no need to budget for child support collections. The child support collection and disbursement process is explained in more detail in Section 45.05.

The budget should be determined as follows:

	Total administrative expenditures
-	<u>Expenditures for non-IV D cases</u>
=	Total IV D Expenditures
	Total IV D expenditures
-	<u>Program income</u>
=	Net reimbursable IV D expenditures
	Net reimbursable IV D expenditures
X	<u>66%</u>
=	Federal Match
	State allocation and federal match
+	<u>Projected incentives</u>
=	Total federal and state reimbursement

THEN

	Net reimbursable IV D expenditures
-	<u>Total state and federal reimbursement</u>
=	Amount not covered by state/federal dollars which would need to be covered by local dollars. If the local dollars are not available, the agency must reduce their budget by three times the amount not available due to the loss of Federal match.

Additionally, the county must first pay for all non-IV-D activities with 100% county dollars. Program income must be spent first with no match on IV-D activities. Then as much as possible should be covered by state dollars and incentive dollars to be matched 66% by federal dollars.

Whatever this does not cover is county responsibility, but, every county dollar so spent is reimbursable 66% by the federal government.

The problems commissioners and human services directors face in completing a reasonable budget for the CSEA relate to the uncertainty of revenues. The calendar year budget must be based on estimated fees, on a state allocation that is based on July - June and federal incentives that are based on October - September fiscal years. Limited county revenues and tight county budgets drive commissioners to minimize county funds committed to the CSEA. In budgeting, however, commissioners are urged to take account of the mandate to provide adequate services, the county maintenance

of effort provisions (see Section 46.12 of this Chapter) and the potential for state sanctions on county funds (see Section 46.17 of this Chapter).

46.15 OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES RESPONSIBILITIES (ORC 3125.02 and 3125.03)

The Office of Child Support is located in the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Ohio law gives the Office of Child Support the responsibility to establish and administer a program of child support enforcement that meets the requirements of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act and any rules adopted under Title IV-D.

Specifically, ODJFS is responsible for all of the following:

1. Write and develop the policies and procedures for the child support program.
2. Review proposed contracts and written agreements CSEAs submit and approve these working arrangements with other county officials and agencies concerned with securing child support.
3. Operate the Ohio Parent Locator Service (OPLS) and establish procedures for using the Federal PLS.
4. Secure information from other states' child support agencies as to the effectiveness of their IV-D programs.
5. Develop working relationships with courts and agencies in other states in the application of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, when related to interstate IV-D cases.
6. Establish procedures for Internal Revenue Service collection of support arrearages through IRS offset.
7. Establish procedures for utilizing federal courts to enforce court orders for support against non-custodial parents.
8. Establish procedures for disclosure of taxpayer information from the Internal Revenue Service.
9. Monitor the IV-D program and review its effectiveness.
10. Provide technical assistance to CSEAs.
11. Maintain the Support Enforcement Tracking System ("SETS"), which is a statewide computer system that allows CSEAs to manage cases; track activities, collections, and payments; and provide standard reports.

46.16 RELATIONSHIP TO THE STATE (ORC 5101.21)

Ohio operates human service programs, including child support, through a system where counties are sub-recipients of federal funds, and the state provides monitoring through subgrant agreements and county monitoring plans. Before sub-recipienty, the counties functioned as an arm of the state through fiscal, instead of subgrant, agreements. In the world of sub-recipienty, counties are responsible directly to the appropriate federal agency for proper expenditure of federal funds. Counties continue to be responsible to the state for proper expenditure of state funds. Practically, a CSEA functions the same under a subgrant agreement as the previous fiscal agreement. Instead of a CSEA being audited by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (“ODJFS”), the CSEA is audited by the State Auditor.

Generally, the state’s role under the subgrant agreement model is to provide federal grant management reviews, technical assistance, and training to the counties. A CSEA, then, is supposed to have the flexibility it needs to tailor the child support program to meet local needs and provide face-to-face delivery of services to county residents. The CSEA reports data to the state through SETS in order to maintain federal compliance.

While keeping this relationship in balance from the county perspective often requires constant attention, county flexibility to implement these programs is necessary to address the different approaches needed given Ohio’s varying demographics.

46.17 CENTRAL ROLE OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Without the oversight and involvement of the county commissioners, the county child support enforcement program cannot succeed. The commissioners must do all of the following:

1. Designate the operation of the CSEA.
2. Foster contracts and cooperation with the courts, prosecutor, and sheriff.
3. Fund the non-state and federal share of CSEA operations.
4. Redesignate the CSEA if the agency continues to fail to comply with state and federal standards.
5. Pay from the county general fund any sanctions assessed by the state.
6. Provide office space to the CSEA which is reimbursable at 66% by federal dollars with the other 34% from state match as long as the CSEA does not exceed its state allocations. Procedures are similar to those for county department of job and family services office space as described in Chapter 43 (Section 43.022) of this *Handbook*.

**TABLE 46-1
DESIGNATION OF COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

As used in the chart below, CDJFS means the county department of job and family services, FSA means free standing agency, and PRO means county prosecutor.

COUNTY	CDJFS	COURT	FSA	PRO	COUNTY	CDJFS	COURT	FSA	PRO
Adams	X				Holmes	X			
Allen			X		Huron	X			
Ashland	X				Jackson	X			
Ashtabula	X				Jefferson	X			
Athens	X				Knox	X			
Auglaize	X				Lake	X			
Belmont	X				Lawrence	X			
Brown			X		Licking			X	
Butler			X		Logan	X			
Carroll				X	Lorain	X			
Champaign	X				Lucas	X			
Clark	X				Madison	X			
Clermont	X				Mahoning	X			
Clinton	X				Marion	X			
Columbiana	X				Medina			X	
Coshocton	X				Meigs	X			
Crawford	X				Mercer			X	
Cuyahoga	X				Miami	X			
Darke	X				Monroe	X			
Defiance			X		Montgomery	X			
Delaware			X		Morgan	X			
Erie	X				Morrow	X			
Fairfield	X				Muskingum	X			
Fayette	X				Noble	X			
Franklin			X		Ottawa	X			
Fulton	X				Paulding			X	
Gallia	X				Perry	X			
Geauga	X				Pickaway	X			
Greene	X				Pike	X			
Guernsey	X				Portage	X			
Hamilton	X				Preble	X			
Hancock	X				Putnam	X			
Hardin			X		Ross	X			
Harrison			X		Richland			X	
Henry			X		Ross	X			
Highland	X				Sandusky	X			
Hocking	X				Scioto	X			

COUNTY	CDJFS	COURT	FSA	PRO	COUNTY	CDJFS	COURT	FSA	PRO
Seneca	X				Vinton	X			
Shelby	X				Warren				X
Stark	X				Washington			X	
Summit				X	Wayne				X
Trumbull	X				Williams	X			
Tuscarawas				X	Wood			X	
Union	X				Wyandot	X			
Van Wert	X								
					TOTAL	67	0	16	5