



SOUTHERN REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Juneau, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk, & Vernon

CASELOAD & PERFORMANCE

Regional Caseload: 17% of state

Largest: Dane (29,104)

Smallest: Lafayette (644)

Court Order Establishment: 90.79%

Paternity Establishment Rate: 98.55%

Current Support Collection Rate: 76.92%

Arrears Collection Rate: 66.23%

CHALLENGES

Cash Wages: Many Non-Custodial Parents (NCP) receive cash wages and will not pay support on their own.

Pandemic: The pandemic made it difficult to enforce orders with unemployment and job loss. Counties struggled to balance empathy for families' needs and performance to maintain funding.

Improving Methods: Working to improve methods of doing things with the right people and job breakdowns after many years of using the same processes.

WHAT MAKES THEM UNIQUE?

Border Counties: The Southern region includes multiple counties that border Illinois, Iowa and a small portion of Minnesota. Participants regularly move across state lines which creates new challenges for caseworkers when keeping track of participant location and initiating intergovernmental actions.

"Pay or Appear" is a strategy used in Vernon County for NCPs that require extra accountability. The program requires payors to pay in full each month or appear in court. Prior to the pandemic the success rate of the program was about 75%.

Years of Service

***120 CSA staff totaling 1,326 years of child support service!**

*Does not reflect all Southern County CSAs

COUNTY INITIATIVES

Children First: Dane County participates in the Children First Initiative which provides employment services to NCPs who are not paying child support due to being unemployed or underemployed. Children First ultimately leads to more involved parents and happier families.

Workforce Connections Inc.: WCI is a non-profit organization focused on helping Wisconsin residents manage their careers through career planning, job search assistance, and skills training. They adapt and respond to employment priorities in county areas including Crawford, Juneau, and Vernon.

Child Support Liaison: Rock County refers to the Child Support Liaison prior to initiating contempt action as proof to the court that they have exhausted all efforts prior to filing a contempt action.

CHILD SUPPORT COORDINATOR

Lorinda Patzner became Child Support Coordinator in November 2020 for the Southern Region. She served as a Wisconsin Works (W-2) Coordinator from 2012 to Nov. 2020. Lorinda has always been interested in the child support program and says, "It is a great place to work because of the people and the great things they do every day for the success of others." In Lorinda's personal time she enjoys getting out and hiking and experiencing the communities she works with.

As we celebrate 2021 Child Support Awareness month, BCS will shine a spotlight on the Child Support Agencies and Tribal Child Support Programs within each of the five regions