

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 22, 2007**

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### **ND child support collections keep growing, set new record**

Bismarck, N.D. – North Dakota’s child support enforcement program collected a record \$108 million in support last year – a 6.7 percent increase over 2005 collections, according to Department of Human Services officials. Monthly collections broke the \$11 million threshold for the first time in March, helped by federal tax return intercepts.

Almost \$95.2 million was distributed directly to families, and an additional \$5.6 million went to families through other states. North Dakota retained \$3.6 million to reimburse public assistance and foster care costs.

Human Services Executive Director Carol K. Olson said, “Many parents are supporting their children, and employers and other stakeholders such as the regional child support enforcement units and the courts are doing a good job of seeing that children receive support.”

She said legislators have approved tools enabling the state to develop an effective program. Examples income withholding, payment plans, tax refund intercepts, and hunting and professional license suspensions, and more. North Dakota is piloting efforts to help noncustodial parents find jobs and is also working with parents to address outstanding child support debt before penalties overwhelm them.

North Dakota ranks second in the nation among states and territories on federal child support enforcement performance measures. Child Support Enforcement Division Director Mike Schwindt said he is pleased with the program’s performance, but work remains because in 2006, over 18,000 parents had outstanding balances, many exceeding \$5,000.

The state’s child support enforcement program serves about 162,000 individuals, including children and noncustodial and custodial parents.