

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Child Support Enforcement Sets All-Time Monthly Collections Record in March

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota’s Child Support Enforcement program has set an all-time monthly collections record of \$13 million in March 2010. This tops the previous monthly collections record of \$11.9 million in March 2007. The program, which is part of the Department of Human Services, receives and distributes court ordered child support payments to children living in North Dakota and in other states and countries.

March is often the biggest month of the year for collections because of the tax refund offsets. This year’s record-high federal tax refunds of over \$2.125 million, and record-high state tax refunds of over \$133,000 helped contribute to the record.

Mike Schwindt, director of the Child Support Enforcement program, said they continue to receive strong support from employers through income withholding, which produced over half of the March collections. He said the Child Support Enforcement program has expanded outreach to employers with the help of the Business Relations Task Force created by the Legislature in 2009.

“More businesses and agencies that make payments to individuals now consider the possibility that recipients might owe child support. They contact our program and this helps us take appropriate collection action,” Schwindt said.

The Child Support Enforcement Division continues to pursue new sources for collections including matching individuals involved in the recent Fargo traffic fine class action lawsuit, federal retirement, Conservation Reserve Program payments, partnering with insurance companies, and rural electric and telephone cooperatives. There is also a 100 percent participation rate with North Dakota financial institutions involving a data match with child support.

Schwindt said a large number of parents support their children with on-time payments required by court order. For others, the program has increased public awareness and promoted cooperation with obligors, all for the well-being of North Dakota children.

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