

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
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## **North Dakota Child Support Excels on Federal Performance Standards; Sets All-Time Monthly Collections Record**

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota’s Child Support program, which is part of the Department of Human Services, ranked third best in the country overall last year on five federal performance measures.

Jim Fleming, director of the Child Support Division said the federal performance measures track the percentage of cases where paternity and support are established, current support is fully paid, and parents are making payments on past due support – all at the lowest cost.

Fleming said over the last year, nearly 75 percent of current child support owed was paid on time by parents with support obligations established in a record high 93.32 percent of open cases.

There are many contributing factors to high performance levels. North Dakota parents have a good payment ethic and support their children, Child Support staff work hard to serve families, and North Dakota employers partner with the program to report new hires and make income withholding possible. In any given month, income withholding by employers represents between 55 and 60 percent of collections.

In addition to the success on the annual performance measurements, North Dakota’s Child Support program set an all-time monthly collections record of \$15.3 million in March 2016; topping last year’s record of \$14.9 million.

March is typically the highest collection month because of tax refund offsets. This year, \$1.76 million was collected from federal tax refunds and \$108,000 was collected from state tax refunds.

Fleming said the last three months represents the highest quarter of collections in the program’s history.

The Child Support program works to collect and distribute court-ordered child support payments to enhance the well-being of children and families living in North Dakota and in other states. The program also works with parents to help meet their obligation, modify an obligation to match changes in a parent’s income, manage interest owed on past-due child support, locate a parent, and establish paternity.

More information about the Child Support program is online at [www.childsupportnd.com](http://www.childsupportnd.com).

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