Michigan

Office of the Auditor General

REPORT SUMMARY

Performance Audit

Statewide Child Support Program

Family Independence Agency

Report Number:
43-701-01

Released:
September 2004

The Statewide Child Support Program was developed to improve self-sufficiency of families by requiring noncustodial parents to fulfill their continuing obligation to support their children and to collect child support to offset State and federal public assistance program costs.

Audit Objective:
To assess the effectiveness and compliance with laws, rules, policies, and procedures of the Statewide Child Support Program in establishing child support orders.

Audit Conclusion:
We concluded that the Program was somewhat effective in establishing child support orders. Also, the Program was generally in compliance with laws, rules, policies, and procedures.

Reportable Conditions:
Our assessment disclosed reportable conditions related to actions to establish child support orders (Finding 1), noncooperation sanctions (Finding 2), and child support order recommendation inconsistencies (Finding 3).

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Audit Objective:
To assess the effectiveness and compliance with laws, rules, policies, and procedures of the Program in enforcing child support orders.

Audit Conclusion:
We concluded that the Program was generally effective in enforcing child support orders to obtain current year child support collections. However, the Program had limited effectiveness in enforcing child support orders for those cases with arrearages. Also, the Program was generally in compliance with laws, rules, policies, and procedures when enforcing child support orders.

Reportable Conclusions:
Our assessment disclosed reportable conditions pertaining to the use of license suspension as an enforcement tool (Finding 4), periodic review of child support

orders (Finding 5), initiation and continuation of enforcement actions (Finding 6), child support arrearage liens (Finding 7), credit bureau reporting (Finding 8), enforcement of health insurance provisions in child support orders (Finding 9), incarcerated noncustodial parents (Finding 10), and case closure (Finding 11).

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Audit Objective:
To assess FIA's effectiveness in administering the Program.

Audit Conclusion:
We concluded that FIA was generally effective in administering the Program.

Reportable Conditions:
Our assessment disclosed reportable conditions pertaining to staffing level standards (Finding 12), referral of uninsured children (Finding 13), referrals to State-provided work activities (Finding 14), and Child Support Enforcement System (CSES) health insurance information (Finding 15).

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Agency Response:
Our audit report contains 15 findings and 18 corresponding recommendations. The Program's preliminary response indicated that it generally agrees with Findings 1 through 3, 5 through 11, 13, and 15 and that it has complied or will comply with the corresponding recommendations. The Program's preliminary response also indicated that it does not agree with Findings 4, 12, and 14. The State Court Administrative Office's (SCAO's) preliminary response indicated that it generally agrees with Findings 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 11, and 13 through 15 and only partially agrees with Findings 3, 6, 8, 9, and 12. SCAO's preliminary response indicated that it does not agree with Finding 4.

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A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: http://audgen.michigan.gov

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