

# CHILD SUPPORT POLICY REFORM AND REDIRECTION:

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Moving From Government Reimbursement to  
Financial Support and Security for Children and  
Families

# Child Support Policy in the Context of Government Asset Building Support Policy

Requirement to reimburse for government support

Rugged individualism

Support for Asset building and development

# Child Support Debt

- Total assistance reimbursement  
\$1,418,287,089
- Total amount of arrears due \$116 billion

*\*FY2013 Preliminary Report, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Administration for Children and Families*

# Who owes Child Support (2004)\*?

- 63% of the debtors hold 70% of the debt
- Those debtors had reported earnings of less than \$10,000
- 34% had no reported earnings

*\*The Story Behind the Numbers: Who Owes Child Support Debt? U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Office of Child Support Enforcement*

# 2007 Nine State Study\*

- In 2006, 43 percent of the nation's certified arrears were owed by just 10 percent of the debtors, each of whom owed over \$40,000 in certified arrears.

*\*Assessing Child Support Arrears in Nine Large States and the Nation Urban Institute, 2007*

# Who participates in OCSE?\*

- Over half of the arrears (child support debt) is owed by debtors with less than \$10,000 in income, but more \$20,000 in child support debt
- The primary factor that has caused arrears to grow so dramatically has been the assessment of interest on a routine basis.

*\*Assessing Child Support Arrears in Nine Large States and the Nation Urban Institute, 2007*

# NCPs in the Child Support System

- Among parents with reported incomes of \$10,000 a year or less, the median CS order represented 83% of their reported income
- Nearly half of the obligors (48%) who paid none of their current support in the last year had no reported income; another 36% had reported incomes of \$10,000 a year or less.

# Policy recommendations

- Support Fatherhood services
- No assignment of child support income
- Work to abate the effect of default orders
- No imputed income for low-income men
- Reduce assessment of other fees and costs for low-income men
- No assessment of interest on arrears owed to government.