Child Support Grants – What’s New?

Presented by Lauren Antelo, Michelle Jadczak, Jessica Lohmann, and Jeff Stocks
Presentation Agenda

• OCSE Grant Overview
• OCSE Grants Past and Present
• Update on CSPED demonstration and PTOC pilot projects
• Introduction to Behavioral Economics and new BICS Grantees
• Introduction to the Tribal Child Support Innovation Program and Grantees
What Is A Federal Grant?

Financial assistance award from a federal agency to a recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States.
OCSE Grants

- **Discretionary (Competitive)** – includes Section 1115 and SIP grants
- **Mandatory (Noncompetitive, formula)** – includes IV-D funding and Access and Visitation grants
OCSE’s Competitive Funding

- **1115 Grants:** Section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act authorizes experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects that are likely to assist in promoting the objectives of Part D of Title IV.

- **SIP Grants:** Section 452(j) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §652(j) authorizes information dissemination and technical assistance to states, training to improve child support programs, and research, demonstration, and special projects of regional or national significance relating to the operation of state child support programs.
How Does OCSE Get From Statute to Grants?

1. Determine Priorities and Strategies
2. Draft a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)
3. Publish FOA and Accept Applications
4. Independent Review and Rank Applications
5. Award Funds
OCSE Grants Past

From 2001 to 2011, over **160 SIP and 1115 grants** were awarded to states. Initiatives fell into broad categories...

**Grant Initiative Areas: 2001 - 2011**

- 42% Parenting, Co-Parenting, Relationship Skill-Building
- 21% Outreach and Engagement with Special Populations
- 19% Innovative Child Support Strategies
- 18% Economic Stability Strategies

19% and 21% are not specified in the text.
OCSE Grants Past

- Priority-area based funding
- Single projects
- Short program implementation periods
- Evaluation design determined by recipients
- State or local improvements/findings
OCSE Grants Present

- National demonstration projects following standard evidence-informed program design
- Opportunity for cross-site findings and evaluation
- Increased attention to policy-relevant evaluation strategies
- Larger grant awards and longer project periods
OCSE Grants Present

- New OCSE grant processes and procedures
- Longer response period for FOAs
- Independent confidential peer review
- Increased communication with states about findings/input into process
- Increased grants management supports (trainings/technical assistance)
OCSE Present: FY 2012 OCSE Grant Awards

- National Child Support Noncustodial parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED) – 5 year, $30 million dollar random assignment evaluation demonstration to evaluate impact of employment services for NCPs on child support payment rates in eight states.

- Parenting Time Opportunities for Children Pilots (PTOC) – 4 year, $2.5 million dollar pilot testing establishment of parenting time orders with initial child support orders in specific jurisdictions of five states.
CSPED

- Year 3 of 5 year project – sites enrolling and serving noncustodial parents
- First implementation report to be shared in 2015
- Impact analysis (random assignment) and benefit cost analysis results won’t be ready for a few more years
- Grantees and OCSE are sharing early learning, such as the OCSE Child Support Report
Questions and Discussion

• What else can OCSE do to support successful demonstration projects?

• What kind of communication would you like to receive about progress and findings of OCSE demonstrations and pilots?
Want More Information?

Michelle Jadczak, MSW
Grants and Evaluation Branch Chief, OCSE Division of Program Innovation
Michelle.Jadczak@acf.hhs.gov
202-401-4578
What is behavioral economics?

Traditional view (neoclassical economics)
- Well-informed
- Stable preferences
- No problems with self-control
- Completely self-interested
- Good at making decisions that maximize well-being

Behavioral view (behavioral economics)
- Limited cognition
- Imperfect self-control
- Shifting preferences
- Procrastination
- Mental shortcuts
- Small factors can influence big decisions
Behavioral economics recognizes limits on cognition and attention

**Choice overload**

People are more likely to purchase jelly when offered a limited array.

**Primacy bias**

The first candidate on a ballot has an advantage.
Behavioral Economics Recognizes Limits on Self-Control

**Procrastination**

Students given the option to turn in all assignments at the end of the semester procrastinate.

**Hassle factors**

People are more likely to complete the FAFSA when they have help.
Behavioral Economics Recognizes Social Influence and Identity

Social Norms

Hotel guests were more likely to reuse their towels when exposed to norms of others doing environmentally friendly activities.

Identity Priming

Women who were told that men score better on a math test do worse than those who are not given gendered cues.
The BIAS Project

Sponsored by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

- Applying behavioral principles to large-scale, human services programs
- Investigating problems using a method of Behavioral Diagnosis and Design
- Developing quick, sustainable, inexpensive changes focused on immediate outcomes

Child Support tests in Texas, Ohio and Washington.
To explore the potential relevance and application of behavioral economics to child support services and to build a culture of regular, rapid-cycle evaluation and critical inquiry by focusing on areas such as:

• Early engagement;
• Right-sizing orders;
• Debt reduction;
• Reliable payment;
• Family distribution (including child savings accounts);
• Family-centered services; and
• Other innovations to improve establishment and enforcement outcomes.
BICS Grantees

California Department of Child Support Services
Sacramento County and San Joaquin County
*Dedicated Daddies Make a Difference*

Colorado Department of Human Services
Denver County, Garfield County, Pitkin County, and Rio Blanco County
*How to Help a Partial Payer Pay: Using Behavioral Economics to Increase Payments to Colorado Kids*

Office of the Attorney General for District of Columbia Child Support Service Division
*D.C. Behavioral Intervention Project*

Georgia Department of Human Services
Fulton County, DeKalb County, Macon-Bibb County, and Peach County
*Behavioral Interventions in Early Engagement for Georgia Child Support Services*
BICS Grantees

Ohio Office of Child Support
Franklin County and Cuyahoga County
*Understanding Perspectives - Behavioral Interventions in Child Support*

Texas Office of Attorney General
San Antonio, Dallas, El Paso, Abilene and Paris
*Texas Start Smart*

Vermont Agency of Human Services
*Behavioral Interventions for Child Support Services - Improving Performance and Customer Experience through Choice Architecture*

Washington State Division of Child Support
King County, Thurston County, and Whatcom County
*Behavioral Interventions for Child Support Services*

Evaluation Grantee:
Washington State Division of Child Support
*Evaluation of Behavioral Interventions for Child Support Services*
Evaluation of BICS
Grantees will work closely with an experienced Technical Assistance and Evaluation Team

- Define
- Diagnosis
- Design
- Test
BICS Questions and Discussion

For programmatic questions:
Jessica Lohmann
Program Specialist, OCSE Division of Program Innovation
jessica.lohmann@acf.hhs.gov

For evaluation questions:
Lauren Antelo
Senior Specialist, OCSE Division of Program Innovation
lauren.antelo@acf.hhs.gov
Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) awarded approximately $210,000 to five tribal child support agencies as part of the Tribal Child Support Innovation Grant (TIG) funding opportunity.

The TIG program aims to strengthen the knowledge and ability of tribal child support programs operating family-centered services to improve institutional structures and processes in order to meet their mission in a sustainable way.

First grant opportunity offered solely to comprehensive Tribal IV-D programs.
TIG strategies for family-centered services include the following areas:

- intervening early;
- establishing and maintaining accurate child support orders;
- promoting noncustodial parents’ positive engagement in the lives of their children;
- increasing noncustodial parent employment and family economic stability;
- reducing unmanageable child support debt;
- improving family relationships;
- collaborating to reduce family violence; and
- preventing the need for child support services in the first place.
TIG Grants

• Awards will be fully funded for two years with one two year project and budget period.

• Grantees must report every 6 months on their program implementation and outcomes and must submit a final summary report about their grant project within 90 days of the end of the grant period.

• Grantees will participate in recurring information sharing conference calls.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIG Grants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee Nation – Oklahoma</td>
<td>Building Blocks...Strong Parents, Strong</td>
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<td>Children, Strong Families, Strong Foundations</td>
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<td>Forest County Potawatomi Community – Wisconsin</td>
<td>Providing Reliable Child Support Assistance</td>
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<td>through Innovative Collaboration, Outreach,</td>
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<td>and Advocacy to Tribal Employees</td>
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<td>Fort Belknap Indian Community – Montana</td>
<td>Child Support Enforcement Special Project</td>
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<td>Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe – Washington</td>
<td>S’Klallam Strong: Collaborative Activities to</td>
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<td>Provide Wrap-around Family Support for</td>
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<td>Parents Involved in the Child Support Process,</td>
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<td>with Specific Focus and Outreach for Non-</td>
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<td>Custodial Parents</td>
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<td>Yurok Tribe – California</td>
<td>Yurok Family-Services Program</td>
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TIG Questions and Discussion

Jeffrey Stocks
Program Specialist, OCSE
Jeffrey.stocks@acf.hhs.gov

Tami Masuca
Program Specialist, OCSE
Tami.Masuca@acf.hhs.gov