



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 2021

Child Support Awareness Month

Child Support Awareness Month underscores the critical importance of supporting families and connecting them with the vital resources they need to get by, especially amid the unprecedented pandemic challenges faced over the past year.

During this time, state agencies have adapted swiftly to offer improved services to families of all shades, shapes and sizes, providing them with resources for immediate relief and into the future – and the Child Support program is no exception. I took executive action last year to shift the priority for payment of overdue child support collections to families instead of first reimbursing the state. At my direction, California Child Support Services is also revising the state's program for reducing overdue child support obligations in ways that will expand the eligibility of many parents struggling with government-owed debt.

This Child Support Awareness Month, I encourage Californians to get the facts about California Child Support Services and all the ways their programs can assist parents and legal guardians in providing a stable and supportive environment to their children. A child support case can be opened by either parent, the legal guardian or custodial grandparent. If your circumstances change, child support payments can change as well. And in many cases, attendance at court can be avoided and services are completely free or very close to it.

The state is committed to offering services that are more flexible and responsive to the needs of California's diverse families than ever before. California Child Support Services is here to help you better understand your rights and responsibilities, assist you with the complexities of the system and foster your best connection to your kids. I thank all of the parents and child support professionals who are working together to ensure a bright future for California's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom