

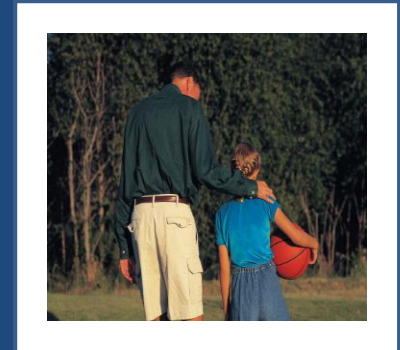
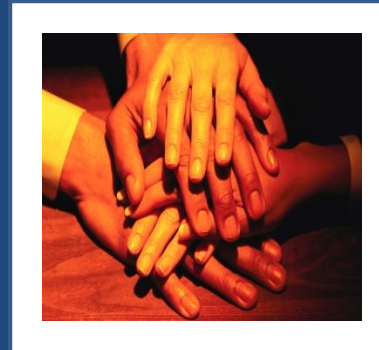
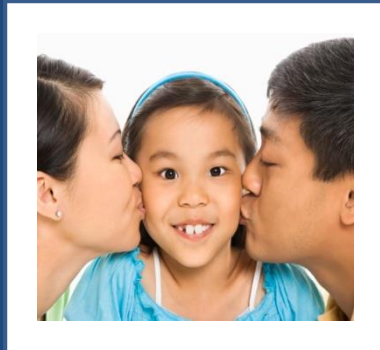


# Family Centered Strategy “Promoting Self-Sufficiency”

THE OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT  
ENFORCEMENT

Presenter:

**Carnell Lofton**  
*Child Support Program  
Specialist  
Region 3*



Access and Visitation  
&  
Parenting Time Opportunities for Children in the  
Child Support Program (PTOC)



[www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

# Goals of Presentation:

2

- Promote the use of Access and Visitation grant funding to establish parenting time orders as part of the child support establishment process.
- Identify how using AV grant funds to establish parenting time orders can increase safe parent-child contact, promote a family-centered approach to child support, and improve child support program performance.
- “Bring awareness” to child support professionals that Parenting Time Orders with Access and Visitation services can provide safe and family-centered services that support and facilitate children’s access to their noncustodial parents.

# Resources:

3

- Access and Visitation Grant Program FY 2013 update.
- PUBLIC LAW 113–183—SEPT. 29, 2014
- Michael Hayes, OCSE Senior Program Manager, Presentation: Four Decades. For Children. For Families.
- Michael Hayes: OCSE Senior Program Manager, Presentation; Parenting Time Opportunities in the Child Support Program (PTOC)

# President's Budget Proposal and PL113-183

4

“Congress would need to act before Parenting Time could become a regular part of the Child Support Program’s responsibilities.”





## SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING OFFERING OF VOLUNTARY PARENTING TIME ARRANGEMENTS

5

- Increased parental access and visitation not only improve parent-child relationships and outcomes for children, but also have been demonstrated to result in improved child support collections
- Establishing parenting time arrangements when obtaining child support orders is an important goal which should be accompanied by strong family violence safeguards; and
- States should use existing funding sources to support the establishment of parenting time arrangements, including child support incentives, Access and Visitation Grants, and Healthy Marriage Promotion and Responsible Fatherhood Grants

# What is a Parenting Time Order?

6

- ❑ Parenting time is not necessarily dependent on legal custody.
- ❑ Parenting Time Order (formerly or sometimes known as visitation) is a detailed schedule of the minimum parenting time for each parent.
- ❑ Parenting time can be split equally or otherwise by agreement of the parents.

# Why Parenting Time

7

- ❑ 4 out of 10 births in U.S. non-marital
- ❑ 7 out of 10 NCPs in IV-D system have no legal order for access/parenting time – perception of bias
- ❑ Family law primarily based on marital relationship – unequal treatment for non-marital couples
- ❑ Evidence based on benefits of father involvement
- ❑ No parenting time order, does not necessarily equal greater safety for DV victims

# Link Between Parenting Time and Child Support: Child Well-being

8

- Improved child well-being outcomes
- Engaged fathering significantly enhances childrens' social, cognitive, and academic behavior in a positive manner
- Children who have involved fathers show greater emotional security, less depression, and fewer behavioral problems in both childhood and adolescence



# Link Between Parenting Time and Child Support: Payment Outcomes

9

- ❑ Programs that improve parents' contact with their noncustodial children are associated with improved child support outcomes
- ❑ When fathers are engaged in the lives of their children, they are more likely to meet their financial obligations
- ❑ Research shows that financial and emotional supports are interrelated: noncustodial fathers who are involved with their children are more likely to pay child support, and noncustodial fathers who pay child support are more likely to stay involved in their children's lives

# Access and Visitation Grants

10

- \$10 million in grants to states/territories
- Overarching goal - increase noncustodial parent time and access with children
- Establishing parenting time orders as part of establishing a child support order

# Access and Visitation Allowable Services

11

**States are permitted to use grant funds to develop programs and provide services such as:**

- ❑ Mediation
- ❑ Development of parenting plans
- ❑ Education
- ❑ Counseling
- ❑ Visitation enforcement (including monitored and supervised visitation, and neutral drop-off and pick-up)
- ❑ Development of guidelines for visitation and alternative custody arrangements

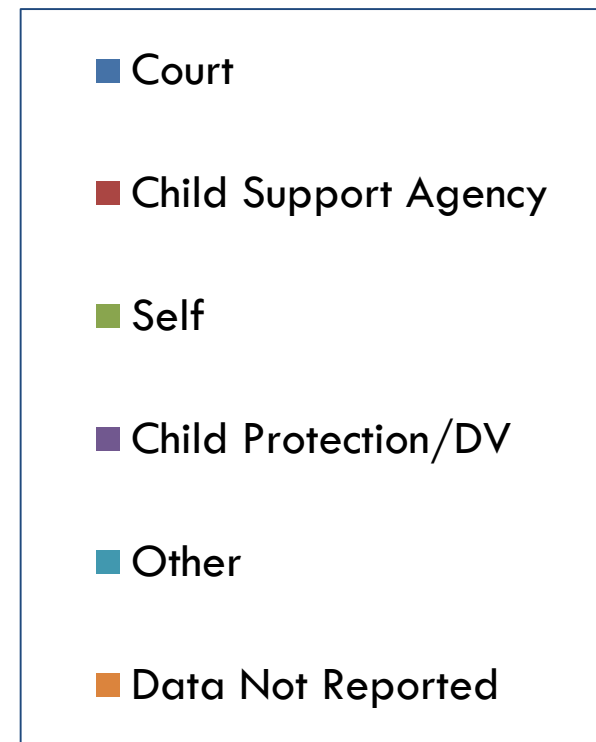
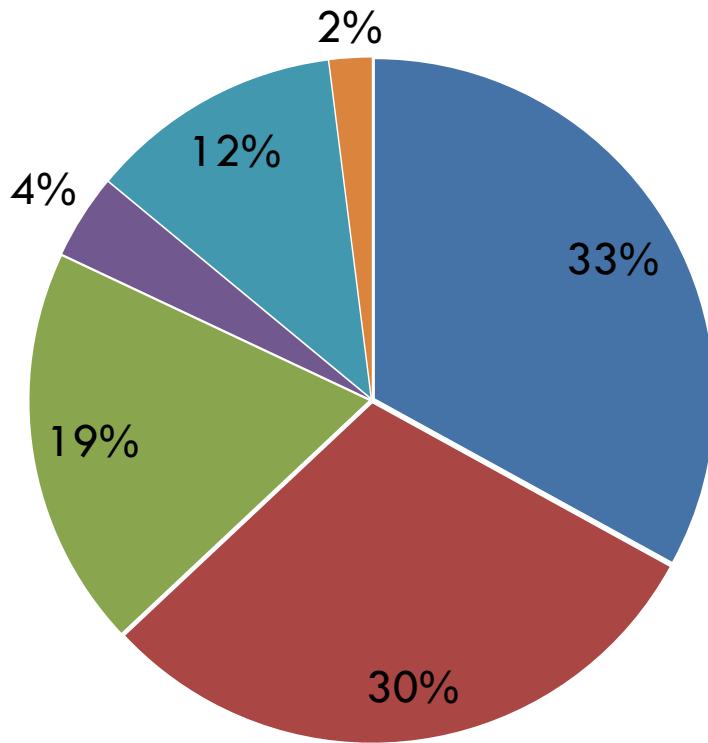
# National Allowable Activities Statistics FY2013

12

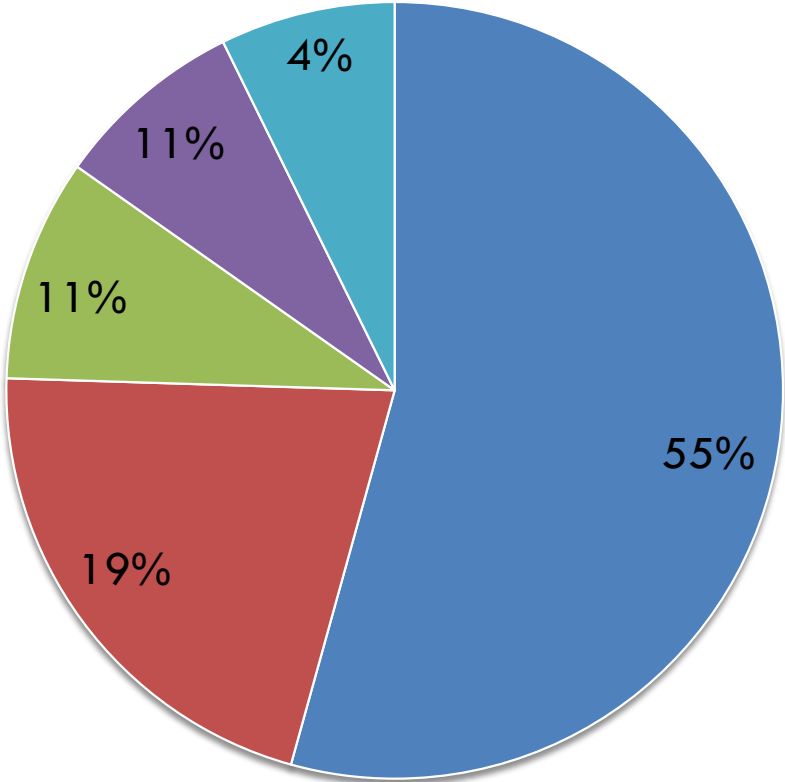
ALLOWABLE ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF PARENTS SERVED	PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS SERVED
Parent Education	55,654	41%
Mediation	32,709	24%
Parenting Plan	24,135	18%
Supervised Visit	13,113	9%
Counseling	6,443	5%
Neutral Drop Off	2,953	2%
Visitation Monitoring	1,485	1%

# Percent of Parents Referred to AV by Source FY 2013

13



# Marital Status of Parents Served at AV FY 2013



- Never Married
- Married to Each Other
- Divorced From Each Other
- Separated From Each Other
- Data Not Reported

# PTOC Grantees

15

- San Diego County Department of Child Support Services (California)
- Florida Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement Program (Miami)
- Monroe Circuit Court (Indiana)
- Fairfield County Child Support Enforcement Agency (Ohio)
- Oregon, Department of Justice, Division of Child Support

# Parenting Time-San Diego

## Grant from OCSE

October 1, 2012-September 30, 2016

### Goals and Expected Outcomes:

1. Reach out to at least 4,500 parents
2. Establish at least 300 Parenting Time Orders
3. Increase child support collections
4. Improve family relationships



# Parenting Time Partners

17

- **OCSE – Project Oversight**
- **YWCA – Domestic Violence Coordinator**
- **SANDAG – Independent Project Evaluator**
- **Family Law Facilitator (FLF) –  
Stipulation and Motion Preparation**
- **Superior Court and IV-D Commissioners**



# Program Eligibility Criteria

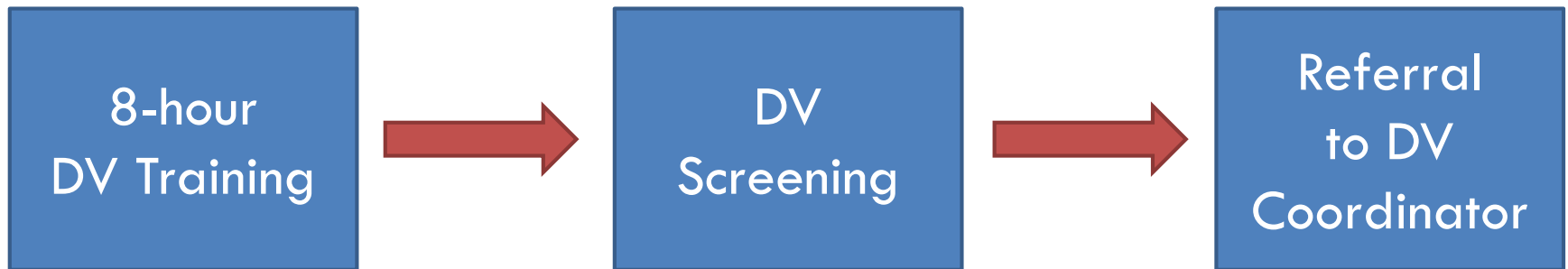
18

## Cases that met the following criteria qualified for the program:

1. CSE case involved both parents
2. Children not in Foster Care/lived with non-parent
3. Both Parents lived in San Diego County
4. Children lived in California for past six months or since birth
5. No prior child support established
6. No pending Parenting Time actions filed with Court
7. Children in the case were not involved in Juvenile court action

# Domestic Violence Safeguards

19



# Accomplishments

20

	<b>Outcomes Expected</b>	<b>2 Year</b>	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1</b>	PTOC orders established	173	133	306
<b>2</b>	Parents served	3400	2250	5650
<b>3</b>	Cases where DV identified	1560	786	2346
<b>4</b>	Referrals to DV service providers	383	108	491+
<b>5</b>	Increase in support payment rates	84%	74%	+10%

# PTOC Core Components

21

- Education to child support customers about availability of the parenting time order opportunity
- Domestic violence screening and appropriate safeguards/responses when DV is disclosed
- Establish a minimum of 300 parenting time orders over the course of the project
- Connection of parents to community based co-parenting resources to support compliance

# Mid-Implementation Highlights

22

- Positive response from parents – value the service
- Appeal for parents – free filing of order, one stop approach, perception of fairness
- Child support staff initial hesitancy about offering parenting time has faded – replaced with enthusiasm
- Significantly more DV disclosed than anticipated – important lesson for child support services in general
- Early evaluation findings – parents and child support staff positive, compliance with orders is good

# President's Budget Proposal and PL 113-183

23

“Congress would need to act before Parenting Time could become a regular part of the Child Support Program’s responsibilities.”



# OSCE Online Resources on Parenting Time

24

Child Support and Parenting Time: Improving  
Coordination to Benefit Children

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/child-support-and-parenting-time-improving-coordination-to-benefit>

Discretionary Grants for Parenting Time Opportunities  
for Children in the Child Support Program

Child Support Fact Sheet

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/discretionary-grants-for-parenting-time-opportunities-for-children-in-the>



# Access and Visitation & Parenting Time Opportunities for Children in the Child Support Program (PTOC)

25

## Questions?

Carnell Lofton, Child Support Program Specialist  
Office of Child Support Enforcement  
Region III, Philadelphia, PA