

Maryland Joint Child Support Conference

Working with Members of the Military
October 6, 2016

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Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement

OCSE Divisions

- * Office of the Commissioner
- * Office of Audit
- * Division of Business and Resource Management
- * Division of Performance and Statistical Analysis
- * Division of Federal Systems
- * Division of Customer Communications
- * **Division of Program Innovation**
- * Division of State and Tribal Systems
- * Division of Policy and Training
- * Division of Regional Operations

DPI Division Description

- * Develops, evaluates, and refines new strategies to improve child support program effectiveness
- * Disseminates information about promising and evidence-based practices
- * Coordinates preparation and consults with states and tribes to develop the National Child Support Strategic Plan periodically
- * Administers the Access and Visitation Grant program
- * **Two branches: Grants and Evaluation and Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships**

Branch Descriptions

- * Grants and Evaluation

- * Manages research and demonstration projects, including Section 1115 grants and waivers and Special Improvement Project grants
- * Promotes program evaluation at the state and local levels

- * Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

- * Implements special projects of regional or national significance
- * Pilots new child support approaches
- * Conducts strategic outreach
- * Builds collaborations with federal, state, tribal, local, and community agencies to efficiently improve child support services

Division Impact

- * Why is this division important to the child support program?
 - * Demonstrations and research are critical to building the evidence base by creating effective models of what works for families.
 - * It is critical for the child support program to be thoughtful about partnership building and engagement.
 - * Through partnerships, the program and parents can more easily navigate the range of available services. More comprehensive services can be offered through effective partnerships.
 - * Child Support can enhance offerings through these partnerships and address program limitations.

Division Impact

- * Evaluation of our grants answers questions of interest to IV-D programs across the country.
- * Partnerships encourage innovation and research in areas that promote family-centered services aimed at assisting the most vulnerable individuals in the caseload.
- * Technical assistance to states encourages program development and policy evolution to better meet needs of modern families.

Grants

- * Discretionary Grant Management
 - * CSPED – Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration
 - * BICS – Behavioral Interventions in Child Support
 - * TIG – Tribal Innovations Grant
 - * PTOC – Parenting Time Opportunities for Children in the Child Support Program
 - * PJAC – Procedural Justice Informed Alternatives to Contempt
- * Formula Grant Management
 - * Access and Visitation

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Evidence of Improved Payment

- Research supports strategies that can help strengthen the ability of parents to support their children:
 - Promoting parenthood
 - Helping parents succeed in the workforce
 - Offering debt compromise programs
 - Providing individualized and flexible case management
 - Setting realistic, payable, collectible support orders

Strategic Partnerships & Initiatives

- * Office of Family Assistance

- * Veterans Affairs

- * Asset Building

- * Incarcerated and reentering parents

- * Housing and Urban Development

- * Responsible Fatherhood

- * Military members, veterans, and their families

- * Employment and economic stability

- * Domestic Violence collaboration

Top Unmet Needs 2008-2010

Consistently, child support ranks high among “Unmet Needs” identified by both veterans and local community providers

- **Welfare payments**
- **Child care**
- Assistance for child support issues
- **Legal assistance for child support issues**
- Long-term permanent housing
- SSI/SSDI process
- Legal assistance for outstanding warrants/fines
- Credit counseling
- Job training

* Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Group for Veterans

Top Unmet Needs 2008-2010

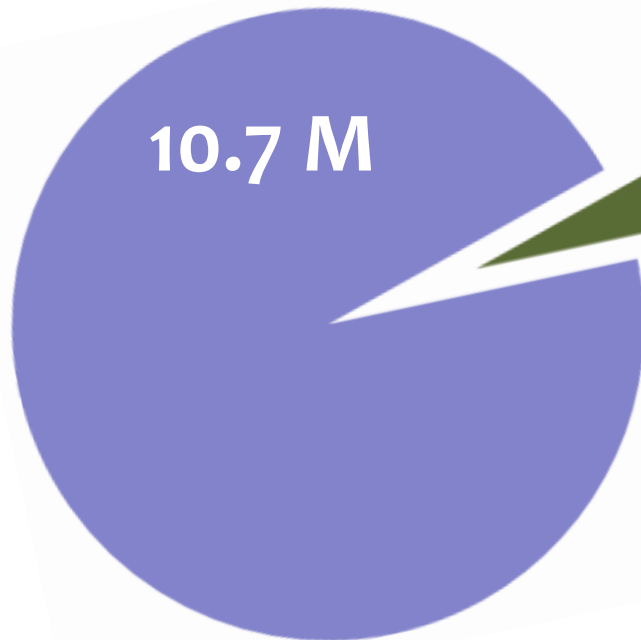
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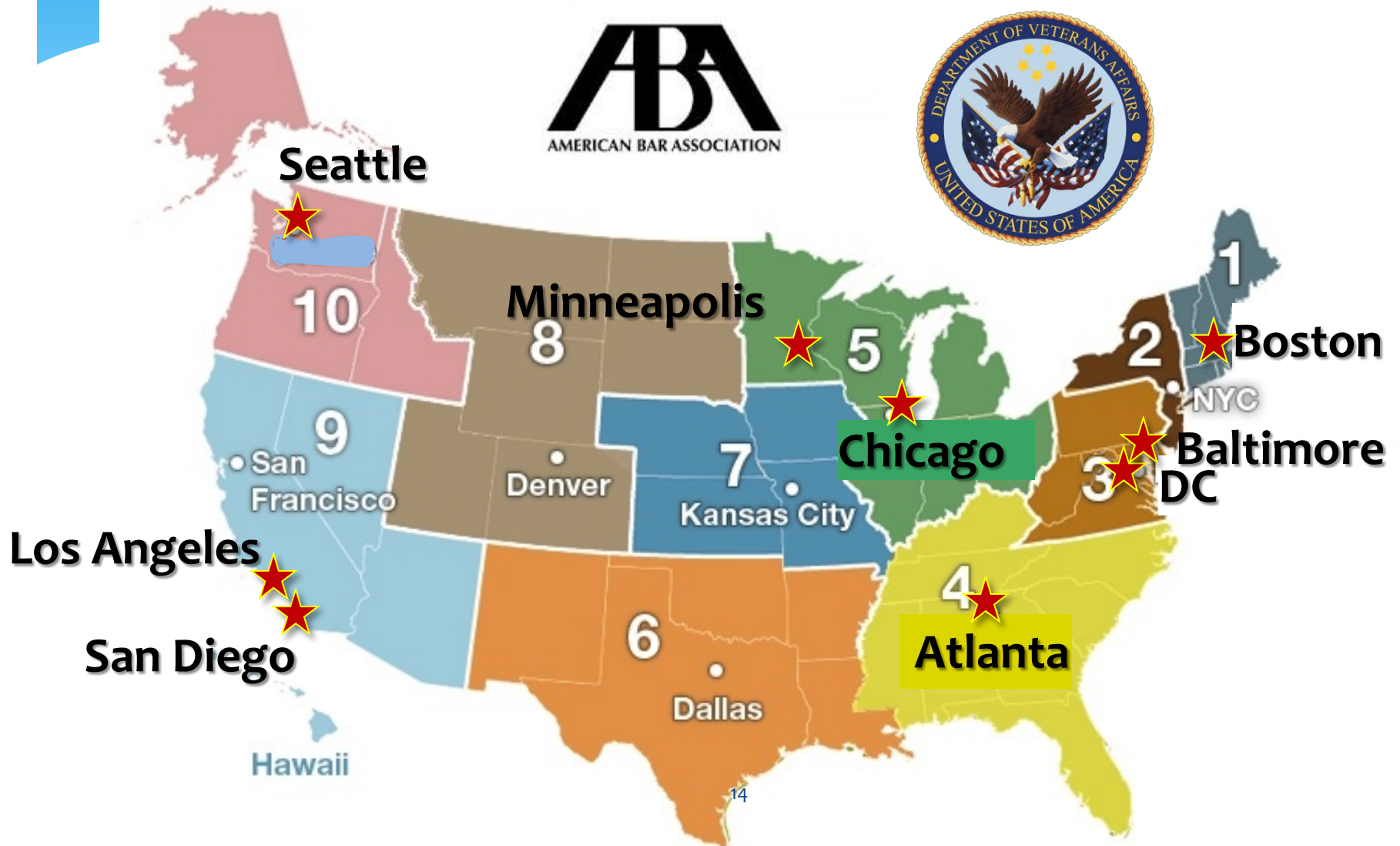
Veterans in the Child Support Caseload

Out of All Noncustodial Parents in the Child Support Program...



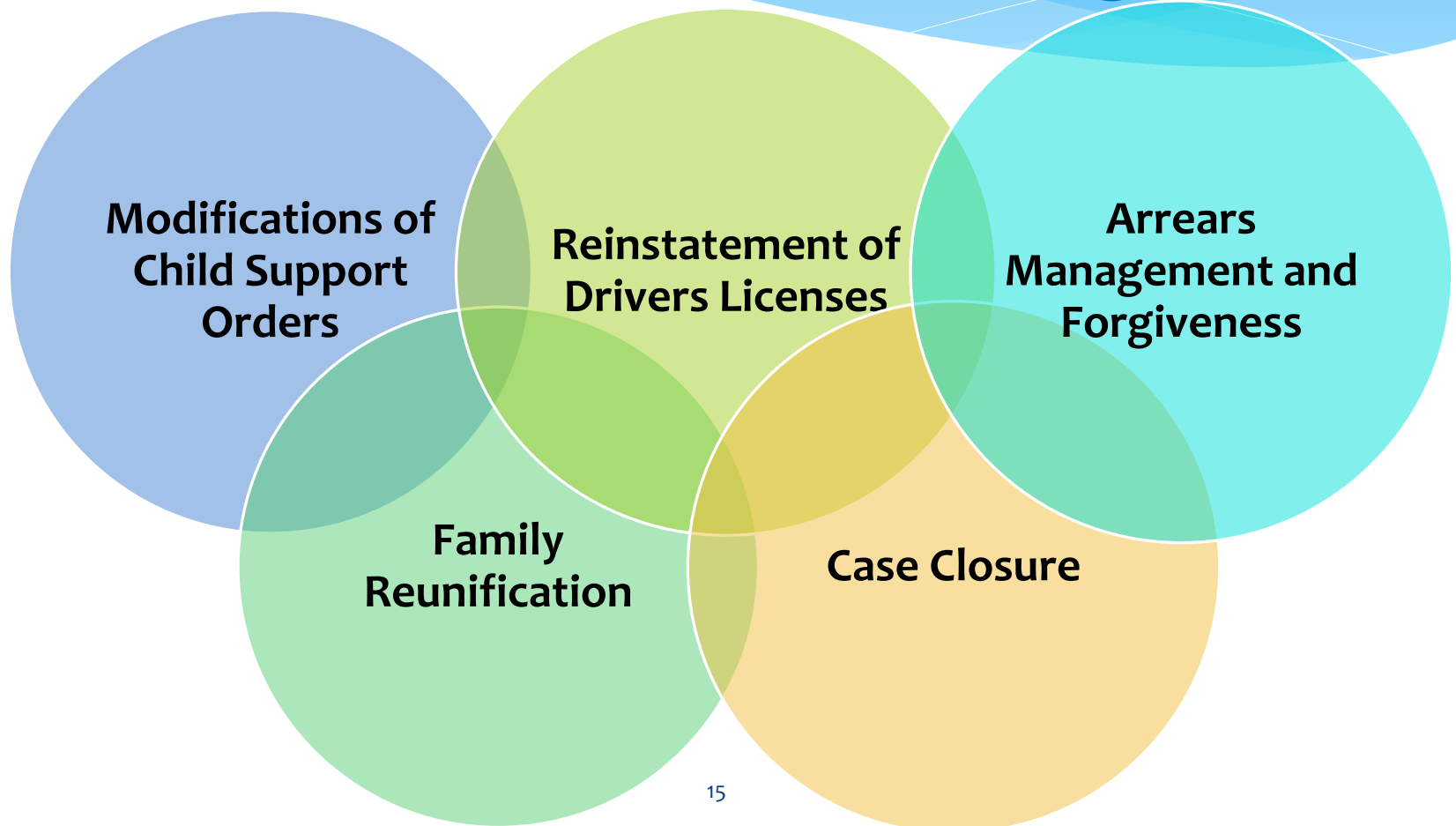
**Over 535,000 (5%)
are Veterans**

Collaboration Pilot Cities



Outcomes

Family Centered Strategies



Resulting Resources

- A Handbook for Military Families
- * Working with the Military on Child Support Matters (for CS caseworkers)
- Numerous on-line fact sheets and other resources



Ending Homelessness Among Veterans: The OCSE-VA-ABA Collaboration Project

The Promoting Child Well-Being & Family Self-Sufficiency Fact Sheet Series discusses how and why the child support program provides innovative services to families across six interrelated areas to assure that parents have the tools and resources they need to support their children and be positively involved in raising them.

This fact sheet focuses on the early implementation of a collaboration among the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement,



- Child Support Veteran & Military Liaison Network
- Toolkit (in development)

Questions?

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