



Human Resources Administration
Department of Social Services
Kathleen Carlson, Acting Commissioner

HRA's Office of Child Support Enforcement Set New Record for Child Support Collections in 2013

HRA's Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) continued its long trend of record breaking child support collections in 2013, collecting approximately three-quarters of a billion dollars on behalf of the city's children. The record-setting collections total was \$2,740,186 or .37 percent higher than 2012's record high. The collections benefitted approximately a quarter of a million NYC children in 2013.

"I'm extremely proud of the work our staff has done on behalf of the city's children," said Executive Deputy Commissioner of OCSE Frances Pardus-Abbadessa. "Last year, OCSE found new ways to assist noncustodial parents and bring them into the program, such as the "Pay it Off" initiative, which helped NCPs with child support debt. Our staff worked hard to serve both custodial and noncustodial parents, but most of all they worked for New York City's children."

OCSE exists to make sure the city's children receive the support of both parents. Child support is essential help that many children depend on to stay out of poverty, and children who receive financial and emotional support from both parents do better in almost every way.

Last year, OCSE's "Pay It Off" initiative helped noncustodial parents (NCPs) who owed child support debt to the government with special incentives to repay their debt. NCPs who paid at least \$2,500 toward their debt had their payment matched by HRA. HRA also removed nine percent interest charges owed on debt if NCPs paid the principal in full. Overall, 184 noncustodial parents participated in the initiative, 189 agreements were signed, and nearly \$1 million in child support debt was repaid.

This was in addition to a variety of programs OCSE already operates to help both custodial and noncustodial parents support their children and play an active role in their lives. OCSE can refer parents to free or low-cost mediation services to resolve visitation and other issues. OCSE also offers job placement services to unemployed NCPs through the Support Through Employment Program (STEP), and a variety of services to help NCPs repay child support debt and modify payments if their situation changes.

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