



# NEWS RELEASE

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## State Honors Marin County Child Support Agency

Three Performance Awards Received for 2011

NOVATO – The California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) recognized California's top performing local child support agencies for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011, at its Statewide Directors Meeting in January.

The Marin County Department of Child Support Services, which is funded by state and federal funds, establishes paternity, establishes child support and medical support orders and also modifies and enforces support orders.

Marin County received awards, based upon their caseload size, for top overall performance of a very small county and for most improved performance for a very small county on five federal performance measures in FFY 2011. The third award received by the local agency was for achieving the rank of #2 statewide in overall performance regardless of caseload size. Marin was #8 in the statewide ranking for 2010.

"I have the honor to lead an exceptional group of dedicated employees," said Keith Pepper, Esq., Director of Marin County's Department of Child Support Services. "Despite the challenges in the last few years of reduced state funding and a smaller staff, we continue to improve our ability to effectively serve the children and families of Marin."

"The awardees make California proud," said Interim DCSS Director Kathleen Hrepich. "These counties showed exceptional fortitude in meeting or exceeding their performance goals. Ultimately, it is California's families and children who benefit from these outstanding efforts."

Five counties were honored for **top overall performance**. They ranked highest among their caseload size for outstanding performance in all federal performance measures: Marin (very small county), San Luis Obispo (small), Sonoma (medium), Ventura (large) and San Diego (very large).

Five child support agencies showed the **most improvement** in overall performance, by caseload size: Marin (very small county), Sierra/Nevada (small), Butte (medium), Ventura (large) and San Diego (very large county).

Ten local child support agencies were recognized as the "**Top 10**" They are: 1. San Luis Obispo, 2. Marin, 3. Humboldt, 3. Plumas (tie), 5. Sierra/Nevada, 6. Ventura, 7. El Dorado, 8. Mariposa, 9. Sonoma and 10. Central Sierra (Amador/Alpine/Calaveras/Tuolumne).

The California Department of Child Support Services and the 51 Local Child Support Agencies operate the largest child support system in the nation with approximately 1.4 million cases. In 2011, California's child support program collected and distributed more than \$2.2 billion.

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