Performance Audit
Statewide Child Support Program:
Establishment of Child Support
Cases and Orders
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

MDHHS’s Office of Child Support is the State agency that administers the Statewide Child Support Program and partners with Prosecuting Attorney (PA) offices and Friend of the Court offices in each county to deliver child support services, including the establishment of child support cases and orders. From October 1, 2012 through July 17, 2016, MDHHS established 281,160 child support cases. From October 1, 2012 through July 19, 2016, PAs established 65,277 child support orders.

Audit Objective
Objective: To assess the effectiveness of the Statewide Child Support Program’s efforts to establish child support cases and orders.

Conclusion
Effective

Findings Related to This Audit Objective
MDHHS did not always make timely determinations of custodial parents’ good cause claims for not cooperating with establishing paternity and/or child support orders. Determinations were delayed more than 1.5 years for over 75% of the entire population of 5,095 good cause claim cases that existed as of August 22, 2016. The impact of MDHHS’s untimeliness caused it to inappropriately provide at least $2.3 million in public assistance benefits to those parents who ultimately had determinations of noncooperation and should have had their benefits reduced or terminated (Finding #1).

Material Condition
Reportable Condition
Agency Preliminary Response
X
Agrees

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