



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Department Name: Child Support Services  
Department No.: 045  
For Agenda Of: August 18, 2009  
Placement: **Set Hearing for  
August 25, 2009**  
Estimated Time: 15 Minutes  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: No Vote Required

---

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Carrie Topliffe, C.P.A. 805 568-2326  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Carrie Topliffe, C.P.A. 805 568-2326

**SUBJECT: The Benefits of Child Support**

---

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

Receive and file an update on the benefits of Child Support

**Summary Text:**

This presentation illuminates the many benefits of Child Support to individuals and the community.

**Background:**

California's Child Support Program is an important economic stimulus during these challenging financial times, with studies showing that close to 100% of monthly child support payments are spent during the month received to provide care for dependent children. As such, the California FY 09 -10 budget has not made any cuts to local programs delivering child support services, and has even enhanced funding by \$18 million statewide.

Nearly 8,000 county-based California child support professionals are steadfastly committed to improving the quality of life for 1.6 million California children and families through timely, accurate, and responsive child support services, collecting and distributing over \$2.3 billion annually. In Santa

Barbara County, over 19,000 families are receiving services from the Child Support Department, with over \$26 million distributed in the year ending June 30, 2009. Besides payments to families, Santa Barbara also collected \$239,000 on behalf of the Probation Department and \$310,000 as reimbursement to the Social Services Department during Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

During this period of financial strain for so many families, Child Support Services is participating in a statewide campaign, Get Back on the Road. This allows parents who have had their driver's licenses suspended due to non-payment of Child Support to start making reasonable payments and again enjoy the lifestyle advantages of having a driver's license. With regard for the economic challenges of the times, Child Support continues its commitment to fair and equitable sharing of the responsibilities of parenting.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

**Authored by:** Carrie Topliffe, Director