

Georgia Department of Human Services
Division of Child Support Services

Parental Accountability Court Program

DHS Board Meeting Presentation

Tangler Gray

Director, Division of Child Support Services

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Parental Accountability Court Program Manager



stronger families

FOR A STRONGER GEORGIA



Objectives

- PAC mission and structure
- Provide a breakdown of the DCSS PAC statewide services, phases, & research
- Review of the DCSS PAC coverage area & expansion plan
- Discuss statewide and national exposure through conferences
- Engage stakeholders in goals & resource collaboration



Parental Accountability Court Program

The Parental Accountability Court (PAC) program is a joint effort of the Division and Superior Court Judges to offer an alternative to incarceration and to help chronic nonpayers of child support make regular payments. The program uses community resources and judicial oversight to address barriers that keep parents from meeting their support obligations.

Each program, including services provided to participants, is tailored to the needs of the local community. Superior Court Judges provide judicial oversight and collaborate with PAC coordinators to implement the program. PAC coordinators connect participants to existing community resources.



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Appalachian
Blue Ridge
Cobb
Conasauga
Enotah
Lookout Mountain
Mountain
Northeastern
Northern
Piedmont
Western

Alcovy
Chattahoochee
Coweta
Douglas
Fulton
Gwinnett
Macon
Paulding
Stone Mountain
Towaliga

Augusta
Clayton
Dublin
Flint
Middle
Ocmulgee
Ocmulgee
Rockdale
Oconee

Alapaha
Atlantic
Dougherty
Patuala
Southern
Southwestern
South Georgia
Tifton
Waycross

Parental Accountability Court Program

- Collaboration between GA DHS and Council of Superior Court judges
- Alternative to incarceration
- Utilizes community resources tailored to meet the needs of the local community and individual participants
- Judicial oversight to address barriers
- Increase parental accountability, self-sufficiency, and child support collections



Judicial Support

“In other words, they haven’t paid their child support, so they’re headed to jail ... The idea is that the participant addresses the issues that are keeping them back, and hopefully by the end of the program they will have received some kind of training or a GED in order to help them further their ability to earn for their families.”

*Judge Alison Burleson, Superior Court Judge Ocmulgee
Judicial Circuit; PAC Subcommittee Chair, Judicial Council of
Georgia*



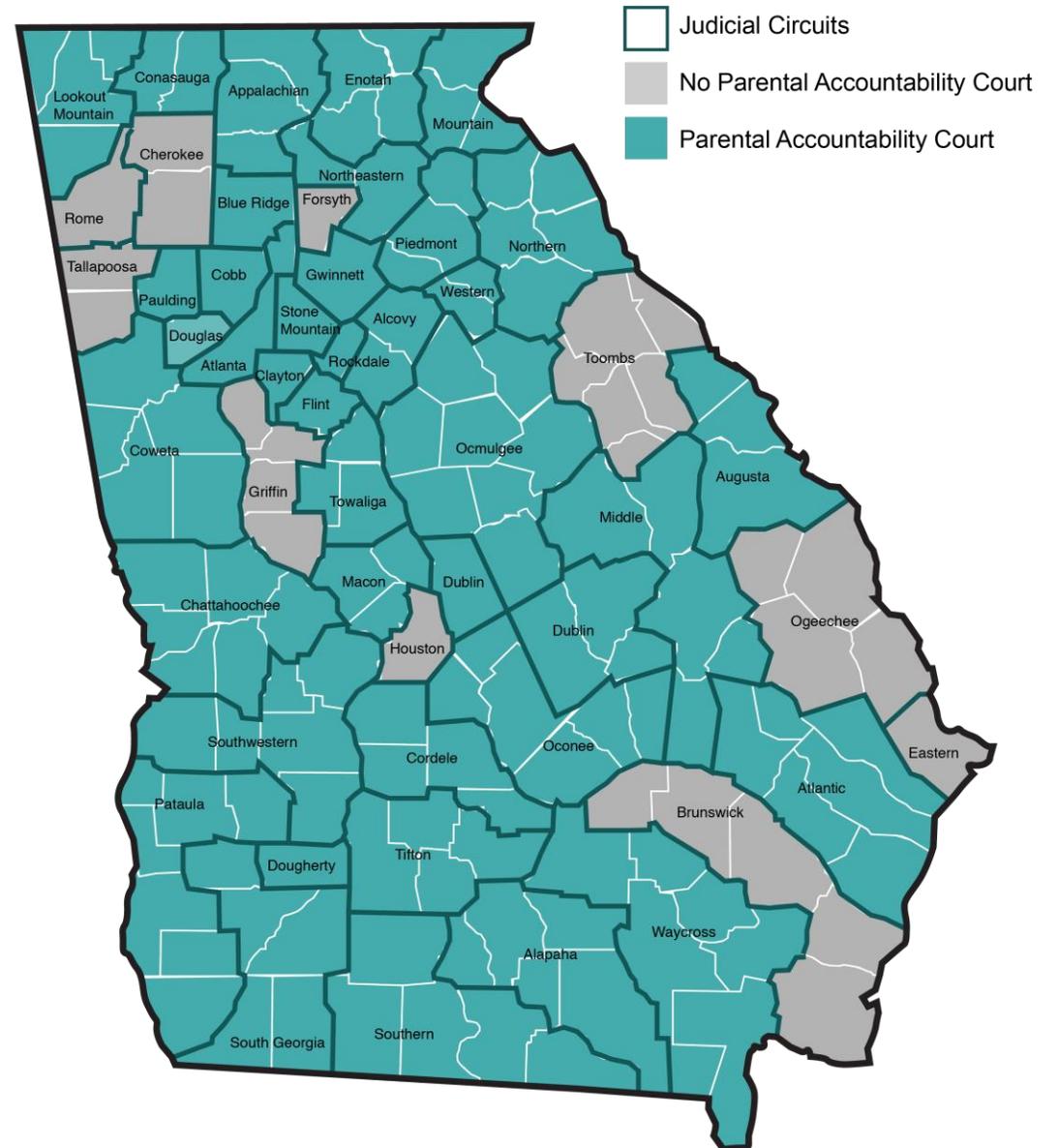
Statewide PAC Coverage

• Judicial Circuits Pending:

- Bell-Forsyth
- Brunswick
- Griffin
- Houston
- Toombs

• Judicial Circuits to Obtain:

- Cherokee
- Eastern
- Ogeechee
- Rome
- Tallapoosa



Evidence-Based Research

Applied Research Services - 2011

- Average monthly payments increased than year before participation
- Reduced incarceration time
- After program graduation, payments did not drop

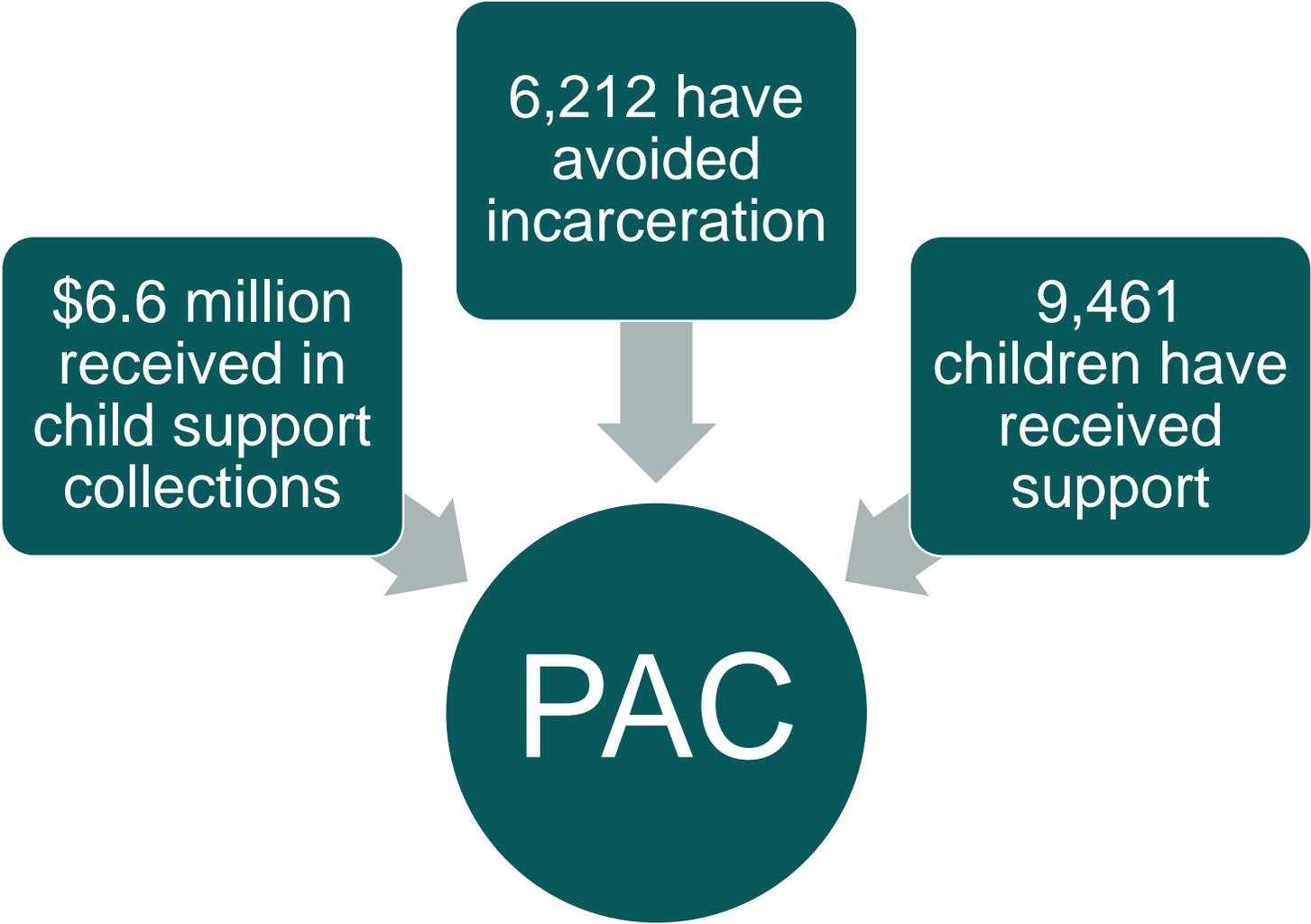
Judicial Council of Georgia: Administrative Office of the Courts – 2018

- Child support payments increased 79% when noncustodial parent participated in PAC
- Participants who receive referred services increased payments by 84%
- Noncustodial parents exposed to PAC, but did not enroll, paid 29% more child support

Sources: 1) *Child Support Courts, Final Evaluation Report*. (2011). Applied Research Services; 2) Judicial Council of Georgia, Administrative Office of the Courts. (2018). *PAC Court Evaluation*.



Since 2012



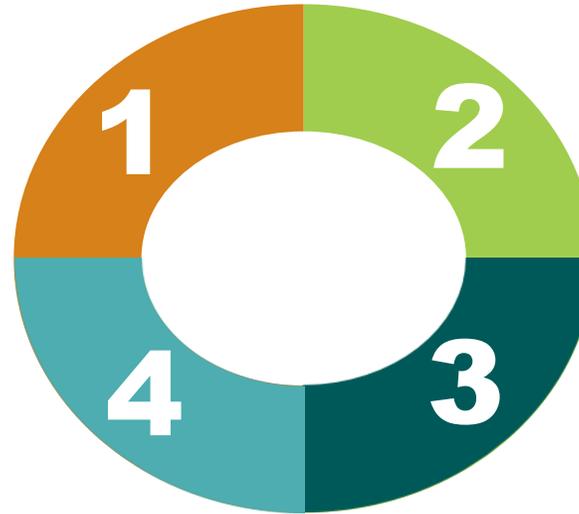
PAC: Program Phases

Intake

- Complete forms, interviews, and assessments: Includes GCIC
- Sign Terms & Conditions
- Referrals to Service Providers
- Driver's License Reinstatement Review

Phase I

- Meet with coordinator as specified
- Compliance with service providers
- Complete weekly verifiable job search/training, obtain employment
- Communicate/cooperate with DCSS



Graduation

- Successful completion of program requirements (6 months with full payments)
- Increased self sufficiency
- More informed on child support process
- Increased work ethic
- Increased child support payments for children
- 12 month follow up

Phase II

- FT employment w/IWO & full payments (6 months)
- Compliance with Service Providers
- Review for Modification
- Referral for Access and Visitation if applicable
- Seek legitimation rights if applicable
- Request to negotiate payment on state arrears



Services Offered to Participants



Substance abuse treatment referrals



Mental health services



Short-term training when available



Volunteer work opportunities



Literacy Training



Employment referral assistance



Access and Visitation referrals



Additional services specific to the local area



PAC Program Highlights



Success Stories

- One district graduate became the first man in his family to earn a GED as a result of the program, and now earns \$17 per hour working for the BAS chemical company
- Another district graduate earned her nurse assistant's certificate and celebrated five years of sobriety last May



State Fiscal Year Goals

- Leverage Department of Community Supervision Interface
- Increase employment resource collaboration
- Complete PAC expansion statewide



Chief Justice P. Harris Hines Georgia Supreme Court



“This is Noble Work Indeed”

<C:\Users\wrparker1\Videos\Chief Justice Hines Noble Work segment video.3gp>

The Honorable P. Harris Hines, Chief Justice, Georgia Supreme Court, delivered his 2018 State of the Judiciary address to a joint session of the legislature on Feb. 22, 2018.



National Collaboration

Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association

National Child Support Enforcement Association

Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement



ERICSA

EASTERN REGIONAL INTERSTATE CHILD SUPPORT ASSOCIATION



National Award Recognition

Georgia's Department of Human Services, Division of Child Support Services PAC program was awarded NCSEA's Innovative Partnership/Collaboration Award on August 14, 2018 at the NCSEA Leadership Symposium in Pittsburg, PA.

- Recognizes innovative partnerships
- Collaborations between child support agency and courts or other organizations or programs serving families





Division of Child Support Services Parental Accountability Court Program Team



Questions

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