



Georgia Department of Human Services
Division of Child Support Services

Procedural Justice Informed Alternatives to Contempt (PJAC)

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Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia.

Mission

Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.

Core Values

- Provide access to resources that offer support and empower Georgians and their families.
- Deliver services professionally and treat all clients with dignity and respect.
- Manage business operations effectively and efficiently by aligning resources across the agency.
- Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.
- Develop our employees at all levels of the agency.

DCSS Core Values

- Put Children First
- Children need both parents
- Customer Interaction is an opportunity
- Employees are valuable resources



Table of Contents

Procedural Justice Informed Alternatives to Contempt (PJAC) awards	Slide 4
Overview	Slide 5
Overview continued	Slide 6
Goals	Slide 7
Grantee funding	Slide 8
Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement	Slide 9
Questions	Slide 10



PJAC awards

- On September 30, 2016 the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) awarded grants to:
 - Arizona
 - California
 - Michigan
 - Ohio
 - Virginia
- Funding for this project is authorized under Section 1115 (a) of the Social Security Act
- Alternatives to contempt by incorporating procedural justice principles
- Georgia was awarded a grant to manage the evaluation of the PJAC project
- Georgia – the seventh grantee, will rigorously evaluate all six program sites



Overview

- Obtain evidence - procedural justice vs. practices
- Gather information - approaches are more cost-effective than traditional contempt practices
- Random assignment - to receive extra services or business as usual
- Impact analysis - an implementation study and a benefit-cost study



Overview

- \$200,000 the first year, with additional funding up to \$581,000 over the next four years, dependent on performance and availability of funds
- First year planning, designing and performing pilot testing
- Next three years enrolling participants
- Final year to evaluate and measure project effectiveness and impacts



Goals

The PJAC demonstration project seeks to increase parents' compliance with child support orders by increasing trust and confidence in the child support agency and its processes. PJAC is a five-year project that will allow grantees to examine whether incorporating procedural justice principles into child support business practices increases reliable child support payments.

The goals of the PJAC project are:

- To increase reliable child support
- Reduce arrears
- Minimize the need for continued enforcement actions and sanctions
- Reduce the inappropriate use of contempt



\$2.1 Million grantee funding

- Arizona
Location: Maricopa County
Project Name: Strategies to Avoid Contempt
FY 2016 Award: \$200,000
- California
Location: Inland Empire Region of Southern CA
(San Bernardino County and Riverside County)
Project Name: Procedural Justice-Informed
Alternatives to Contempt
FY 2016 Award: \$200,000
- Michigan
Services, Michigan Office of Child Support
Location: Muskegon County
Project Name: Procedural Actions to Self
Sufficiency
FY 2016 Award: \$200,000
- Ohio
Location: Franklin County, OH
Project Name: Contempt Alternatives Research
Experiment – Procedural Justice-Informed
Alternatives to Contempt
FY 2016 Award: \$200,000
- Ohio
Location: Stark County, OH
Project Name: New Directions in Child Support
Project
FY 2016 Award: \$200,000
- Virginia
Location: Hampton District Office and Richmond
District Office
Project Name: Procedural Justice-Informed
Alternatives to Contempt
FY 2016 Award: \$200,000
- Georgia is the recipient of the PJAC Project evaluation
grant funding.
Location: Atlanta, GA
Project Name: Procedural Justice-Informed
Alternatives to Contempt - awarded the grant to
procure and manage the evaluation of PJAC under
the authority of Section 1115 of the Social Security
Act.
FY 2016 Award: \$900,000



Federal OCSE

“When individuals believe a process and its outcome are fair, they are more likely to accept decisions made by courts and other public authorities. When their trust is high, they are generally more willing to comply by making regular child support payments. Building trust and increasing compliance are two goals for these demonstration projects.”

- Vicki Turetsky, Commissioner, Office of Child Support Enforcement



Questions?

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