



SESSION TITLES AND DESCRIPTIONS

Bridging Child Support with Maternal and Child Health: Advancing Equity and Wellness

Explore the critical intersection of consistent child and medical support with maternal and child health and wellness programs in this engaging plenary session. Featuring national research, maternal justice, mental health, and advocacy along with the cross-section of fatherhood, maternal health, and child support. This discussion highlights innovative, wrap-around service models that address disparities in maternal and birth outcomes, particularly within Black and Brown communities. This plenary will underscore the pivotal role of child and medical support in fostering healthier families and equitable outcomes.

Child Support Forum: The Impact of Thoughtful Discussion on the Future of Policy

Step back into the age of ancient Roman forums—a place of open dialogue, debate, and civic engagement—where voices from diverse backgrounds united to shape public policy. In this modern-day Child Support Forum, participants will channel this historic spirit of exchange, gathering to discuss, critique, and propose forward-thinking solutions on pressing child support issues. We will cover the role of child support in incentivizing and supporting marriage, the use of driver's license suspension as an effective enforcement tool, child support's responsibility to provide services not directly related to collecting support, and limiting our role where we are not effective at collecting support. This plenary will serve as a dynamic space for open dialogue and ideation. Attendees are encouraged to bring their unique perspectives, experiences, and insights to forge a new path for child support policy that continues to build a program that serves families.

Child Support from Survivors' Perspectives

More than two-thirds of survivors of domestic violence report staying in or returning to an abusive relationship due to financial instability. The financial support available to survivors and their children through the child support program seems an obvious solution to the financial need that traps survivors in abusive relationships – but is it? Survivors are the real experts on what helps or hurts their safety and our panel of domestic violence survivors will share their perspective on the decisions they made about child support and what the child support program did or didn't do that impacted safety for themselves and their children. Millions of survivors and their children need a child support program that is committed to safety for families and a child support workforce with the knowledge, skills, resources, and organizational support to consistently provide domestic violence and trauma responsive child support services.

Child Support Guidelines

Is it time to think about how child support guidelines are set? Review of current practices, parenting time, public input, and uniformity across states.

Empowering Families: Rethinking Enforcement and Exploring Supportive Alternatives

Evaluating the impact of enforcement actions like credit reporting and license suspension on families, and considering alternatives that may be more supportive.



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From Awareness to Action: Improving Access to Justice for All

This topic will explore the modernization of judicial systems to meet clients' needs equitably. It will include insights from the National Center for State Courts and judges who have implemented changes, addressing barriers and solutions.

Future of Government Services & Policy Changes

A roundtable discussion with leaders envisioning what government services programs will look like 10-15 years from now, focusing on anticipated changes and developments. Exploring necessary policy changes to facilitate future developments.

Holistic Family Supports: Integrating Comprehensive Supports for Thriving Families

Families face a myriad of challenges that can impact their well-being and stability. This engaging panel will explore how child support can be integrated into broader family support frameworks to address the multifaceted needs of families. These initiatives provide a wide range of services and interventions designed to promote the physical, emotional, social, and economic well-being of families. This session will highlight the importance of a coordinated approach that integrates health care, social services, and community resources to create a supportive environment for families.

Transforming Child Support: Lessons, Challenges, and Integration of Innovative Grants

This session will explore the impact and insights gained from federally-funded demonstration grants implemented over the past five years, focusing on how these initiatives have shaped current practices and identifying both successes and missed opportunities for integration. We will discuss three pivotal grants and what the states are doing now: the Procedural Justice Alternatives to Contempt Demonstration Grant, The Intergovernmental Case Processing Innovation Grant, and the Digital Marketing Grant. Speakers from California, Arizona, and Virginia, along with our federal partners from the Office of Child Support Services, will examine why some practices have been successfully integrated while others have been overlooked, addressing key factors that contribute to successful implementation and sustainability, as well as barriers to integration. This session aims to provide a roadmap for effectively integrating research-based initiatives into child support services. Join us for an engaging discussion on shaping the future of child support through evidence-based, holistic approaches.

To Coop or Not to Coop, That's the SNAP Question for Child Support

Last year the Food and Nutrition Service published a report by Mathematica on states that currently require – or used to require – families receiving SNAP benefits to cooperate with the child support program in establishing and enforcing financial support. Come hear what Mathematica found on how mandatory cooperation impacts families, program performance, and other important policy ramifications. We then will have a lively debate from policy thought leaders on what programs need to consider as they tackle the Shakespearean question on whether to mandate cooperation or allow parents the choice to access (or not access) child support services when receiving SNAP benefits.