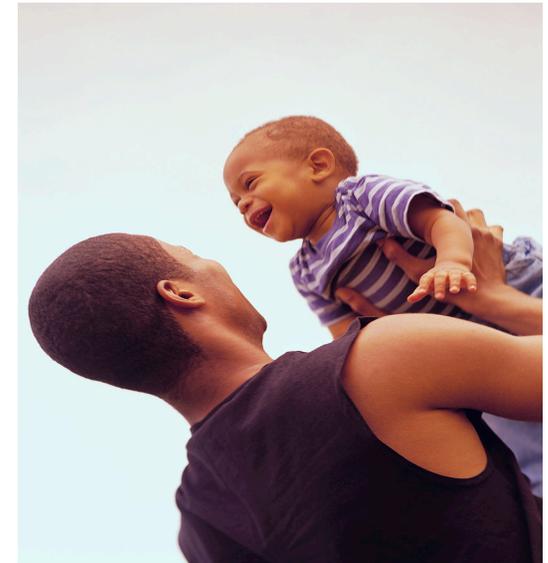




**Our goal is to reach and educate every young person in Rhode Island regarding the legal and financial responsibilities of parenthood! That is the reason why we need to collaborate with all programs working with youth throughout the state.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE A PRESENTATION OF THE “PAPA” PROGRAM AT YOUR SCHOOL OR PROGRAM PLEASE CONTACT OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH LIAISON AT:  
458-4425 OR  
[KCABALLEROS@CSE.STATE.RI.US](mailto:KCABALLEROS@CSE.STATE.RI.US)**

**Department of Human Services  
Office of Child  
Support Services**



**“P A P A”  
Parents & Paternity  
Awareness Program**

**77 Dorrance Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 458-4400**

[www.cse.ri.gov](http://www.cse.ri.gov)

WHAT IS THE “PAPA”

## PARENTS & PATERNITY AWARENESS PROGRAM?

This presentation and material is designed to give youth much-needed information about the legal and financial responsibilities of parenthood. The Office of Child Support services (OCSS) PAPA program was modeled after the original PAPA program in Texas but modified to serve our community. Our community outreach liaison is working hard to develop relationships with schools and youth programs throughout Rhode Island to reach every young person in the state with a very important message:

*That all parents in this state, both mothers and fathers, are responsible for supporting their children, whether their children live with them or not.*

Our office is not able to do this alone and that is why we need your help to disseminate this very important information.

### THIS PROGRAM IS INTENDED TO HELP YOUTH UNDERSTAND:

- **Rights and Responsibilities of Parenthood**
- **Establishing Paternity**
- **Understanding and Navigating the Child Support Process**

- **Realities of Parenting**
- **Their Future as a Parent**

### WHAT IS CHILD SUPPORT?

Every child is entitled to financial and emotional support from both parents. This is true even if the child’s parents do not live together and were never married. If you are the parent of a child, Rhode Island State law holds you responsible for the financial support of that child until the child is 18, even if you have never lived with the child or do not live with the child now.

### SERVICES OFFERED AT THE OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

**Locating parents:** If you don’t know where your child’s other parent is, the child support office will help you locate him/her.

**Establishing paternity:** means that an individual has been legally determined to be the father of a child. When parents are married and a child is born, the husband is the legal father and his name appears on the child’s birth certificate. To create the same legal relationship between unmarried parents and children, paternity must be established.



**Establishing child and medical support orders:** OCSS will help parents take the necessary steps to establish a child and/or medical support order. Medical support means the other parent will provide either health insurance coverage for your child or a cash contribution.

**Enforcement of orders:** If payments are made on time and medical coverage for the child is maintained, enforcement is not necessary. When enforcement is necessary, it is carried out through administrative means by the agency or through the court.

**KIDS card or Direct Deposit:** electronic payments of child support into a KIDS CARD or the transfer of child support payments into your checking or savings account.

### HELP FOR BOTH PARENTS

All parents regardless of age and regardless of whether they have custody of their children may receive child support services. However, services provided to custodial parents differ from those provided to non-custodial parents.

Parents *not* receiving public assistance can apply for services at the Office of Child Support Services. They are charged a one-time \$20 fee.

Parents who receive public or medical assistance for a child whose other parent does not live with them are automatically referred for services. They do not pay any fee for child support services.

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