



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, children represent our greatest hope for the future, and New York State is committed to ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of our children and to giving them the best possible opportunities for a successful and fulfilling life; and

Whereas, the New York State Child Support Program serves more than 525,000 children age 18 and under, and has a vital role in New York State's continued efforts to improve the well-being of its children; and

Whereas, in 2022, the Child Support Program collected and disbursed more than \$1.65 billion in child support, helping many of New York State's families maintain financial stability, reducing child poverty, and encouraging parents to develop stronger, healthier connections with their children; and

Whereas, the most fundamental responsibility and duty of parents is to care for their children and to provide for their financial, moral, and emotional needs, which are critical to their overall growth and development; studies have shown that with a strong foundation of support, children are less likely to engage in harmful behaviors and more likely to do well in school and in adulthood; and

Whereas, the Child Support Program and child support professionals throughout New York State continue to innovate and seek to improve the program while providing valuable assistance to families, helping parents achieve and maintain economic security for their children; the program has recently expanded online and made other convenient options available to parents paying support, including piloting a new initiative to allow parents to make in-person payments easier at local Social Services District offices; and

Whereas, New York State's Child Support Program is one of 13 national child support sites awarded funding under the federal Safe Access for Victims' Economic Security grant, allowing New York to further innovate with local, state, and national partners to enhance safe access to child support services for domestic violence survivors; and

Whereas, these improvements are in support of New York's overarching dedication to our children and to ensuring that families have the necessary resources to raise their children in the stable and supportive environment they deserve;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim August 2023 as

CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day of
of August in the year two thousand twenty-three.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh