

## Non-Custodial Parent (NCP) Choices

### OVERVIEW

Initiated in 2005, the NCP Choices program aims to help non-custodial parents overcome barriers to employment and career advancement while becoming self-sufficient and making child support payments. The NCP Choices program was modeled after the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)'s Choices program, which provides workforce development services to single- and two-parent families. Key outcomes of NCP Choices were measured after four years of operation in four out of five of the original sites, and short-term outcomes were measured in six expansion sites.

See [\*OPRE Report 2011-20 Catalog of Research: Programs for Low-Income Fathers \(December 2011\)\*](#) for more information.

### Focus

Responsible Fatherhood

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

#### Target Population

Low-income, unemployed and underemployed non-custodial parents who are behind on child support payments and whose children are current or former recipients of public assistance

#### Service Delivery Unit

Individual

#### Curriculum

A mandatory, court-ordered workforce development program, targeted non-custodial parents who were offered a choice between paying child support, participating in workforce services, or going to jail. [See more here.](#)

#### Dosage

Program length not reported; but services typically did not extend beyond one year.

#### Setting

Workforce Development Boards

#### Location

Texas

#### Adapted and/or Created for Hispanic Population

No

## Demographics of Population Served

- 54.6% were Hispanic
- 95.2% were male
- The mean age was 33.8 years

## PROGRAM EVALUATION

### Evaluated Population

1,875 low-income non-custodial parents

### Study Design

- Quasi-experimental comparison group design
- Follow-up at one year post-intervention

### Outcomes

Payment of child support, Consistent payment of child support; Employment and earnings of non-custodial parents; Unemployment insurance; and Receipt of TANF and other public assistance

### Results

- *Payment of child support*
  - NCP Choices participation was associated with a 14 percentage-point increase in the frequency in payment of child support in the first year in the program, which represents a 47% gain in collections rate relative to the comparison group.
  - NCP Choices participants paid approximately \$57 more in child support per month than the comparison group, which was a 51% increase in total collections.
- *Consistent payment of child support*
  - NCP Choices participants were 15 percentage points more likely to pay child support in at least two out of every three months than their comparison group counterparts in the first year, which represents a 50% increase in the frequency of consistent payments.
- *Employment and earnings*
  - NCP Choices had significant positive impacts on employment rates, with an employment impact of 21%, but significant negative impacts on earning levels, with employed participants earning \$587 less per quarter than employed members of the comparison group.
- *Unemployment insurance*
  - NCP Choices participants were less likely to file employment claims in the first year after the program and received about \$13 less in unemployment benefits per month than their counterparts in the comparison group.
- *Receipt of TANF and other public assistance*
  - Parents associated with NCP Choices participants were significantly less likely to receive TANF in the year following program participation, with a 1.4 percentage-point decrease in TANF receipt.



### **Results for Hispanic Subgroups**

None reported

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