The mission of the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is to promote the well-being of children by establishing and enforcing child support and medical support orders. Parents and employers are key partners in ensuring that adequate medical support is provided for children in California.

Non-Custodial Parents: Have You Ever Wondered.....

- **Why does the Department of Child Support Services require me to provide medical support?**
  Federal and state law require all parents to provide adequate medical support for their children. DCSS is mandated to establish and enforce child support and medical support orders based on both parents’ income. The law requires that if medical insurance is available through your employer or union, you must insure your child.

- **What if I can’t afford it?**
  If you feel you can’t afford the cost, contact your local Department of Child Support Services.

- **What happens if I lose my job?**
  Inform your local Department of Child Support Services if you lose your job. You may be eligible for modification of your child support order based on the change of circumstances.

- **My child(ren) are only receiving Medi-Cal, why am I asked to pay child support?**
  Unless the custodial party declines services, DCSS is required to pursue child support for all children receiving Medi-Cal.

**Did you know?**

- **$695:** The average cost per month for family health care insurance.

- **14%:** The average percent of a single-parent family’s budget that is spent for health care.

- **$235:** The average monthly employee contribution for job-based family health care coverage.