

For Immediate Release

Contact: Necole Simmonds

Necole.Simmonds@dss.virginia.gov

**Child Support Awareness Day
Strengthening Families and Communities**

Division of Child Support Enforcement invites the entire family to participate

Fairfax, Va. (August 1, 2017) - On Thursday, August 3, from 3-7pm, the Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) will celebrate Child Support Awareness Day at The Fairfax County Government Center Farmers Market located at 9990 Fairfax Blvd. suite 200 Fairfax, VA. 22030. On this day, DCSE will be on-site to share information and answer basic questions about child support and family engagement programs in Virginia.

With one in five children in Virginia involved in a child support case, DCSE is raising awareness about programs and services that help families. DCSE will be on-site to share information and answer basic questions about child support and family engagement programs in Virginia.

“DCSE’s commitment to children in Virginia extends beyond collecting child support dollars on their behalf,” said Craig Burshem, Deputy Commissioner of DCSE. “Every child needs support. However, barriers such as substance misuse, incarceration, and unemployment may impact a parent’s ability to provide critical support to their children. We want all Virginians to know that DCSE has resources to help parents overcome such barriers, and facilitate successful outcomes for themselves and their children.”

DCSE continues to enhance services such as family engagement, fatherhood initiatives, re-entry programs and realistic support orders. DCSE is committed to working with community partners in helping parents overcome barriers such as lack of job skills, unemployment, previous incarceration, substance misuse and mental health issues. DCSE will also continue to refer parents to mediation or agency partners for help in resolving disputes and improving communication.

In the last fiscal year, DCSE managed more than 310,000 cases and collected more than \$659 million in support on behalf of Virginia’s children. Child support helps provide funds for food, shelter, education, clothing, and other costs involved in raising and nurturing children.