

CONFRONTING STRUCTURAL RACISM

in the

CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

Listening. Understanding. Taking Action.

NYC
Human Resources
Administration
Department of
Social Services

CHILD SUPPORT
SERVICES

CONFRONTING STRUCTURAL RACISM IN THE CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM: LISTENING. UNDERSTANDING. TAKING ACTION.

Child Support in New York City

**Frances Pardus-abbadessa,
Executive Deputy Commissioner, NYC HRA OCSS**

This Conference and Our Program

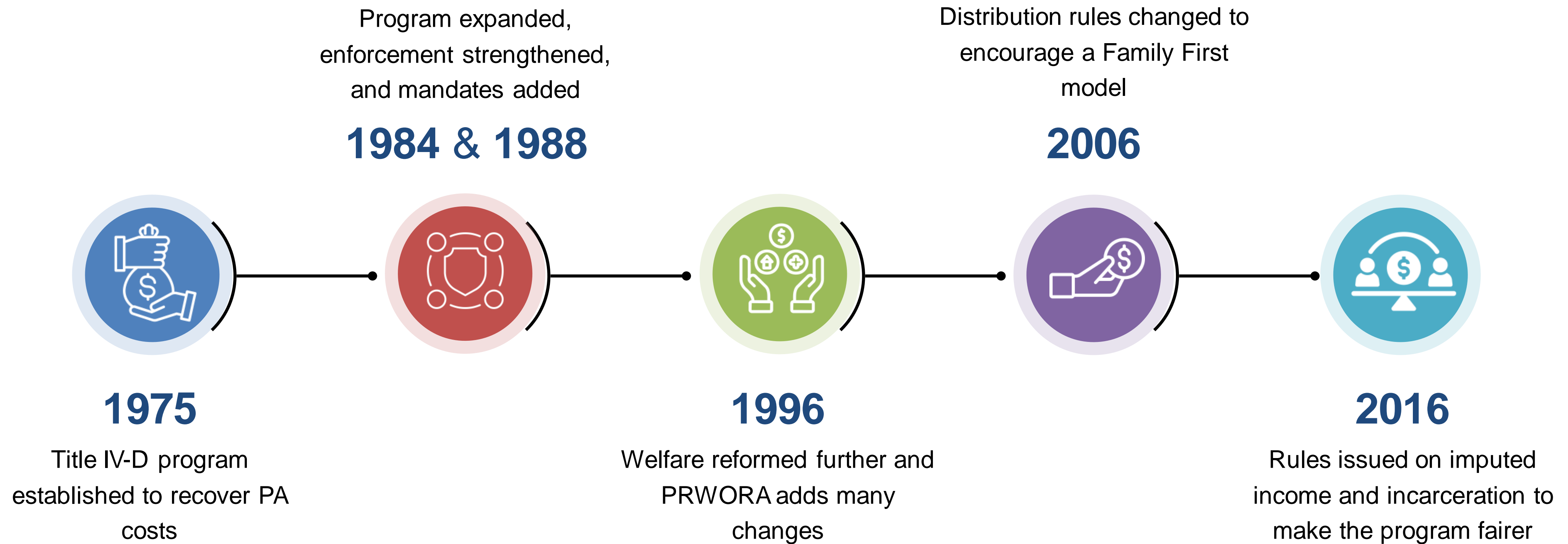


[Photo](#): Allan Warren (1969).

Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced.

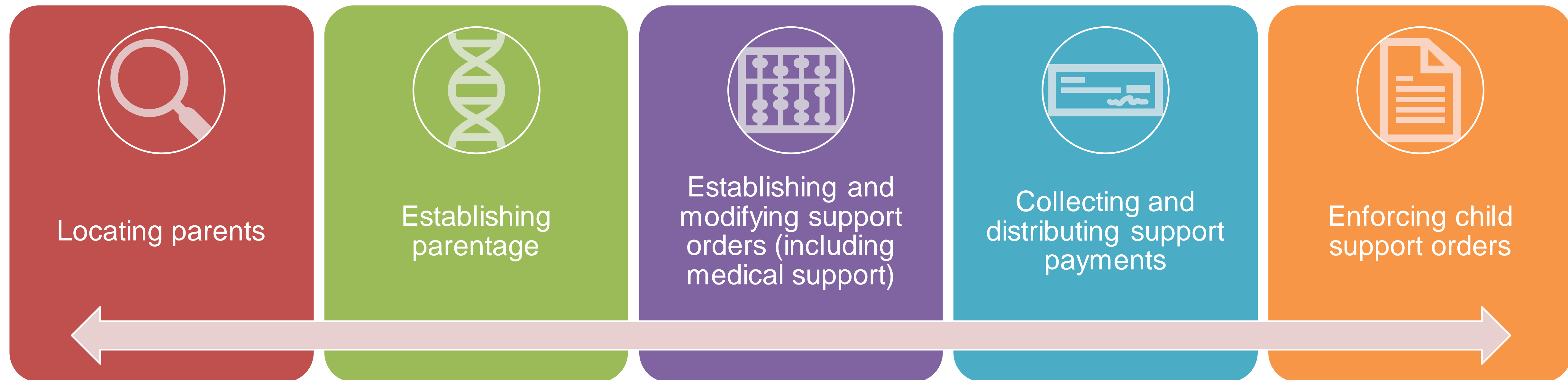
— James Baldwin,
“As Much Truth as One Can Bear”
(1962)

A Few Key Dates in Child Support History



Child Support: Definition and Services

Child support is the ongoing contribution of money to help pay for the living and medical expenses of a child or children.



Participants on a Child Support Case

Child or Children on the Case

**Custodial Parent (or Guardian)
(CP)**

Receives child support (or
assigns rights to the state)

**Noncustodial Parent
(NCP)**

Pays child support

Two Primary Types of Child Support Situations



INFORMAL

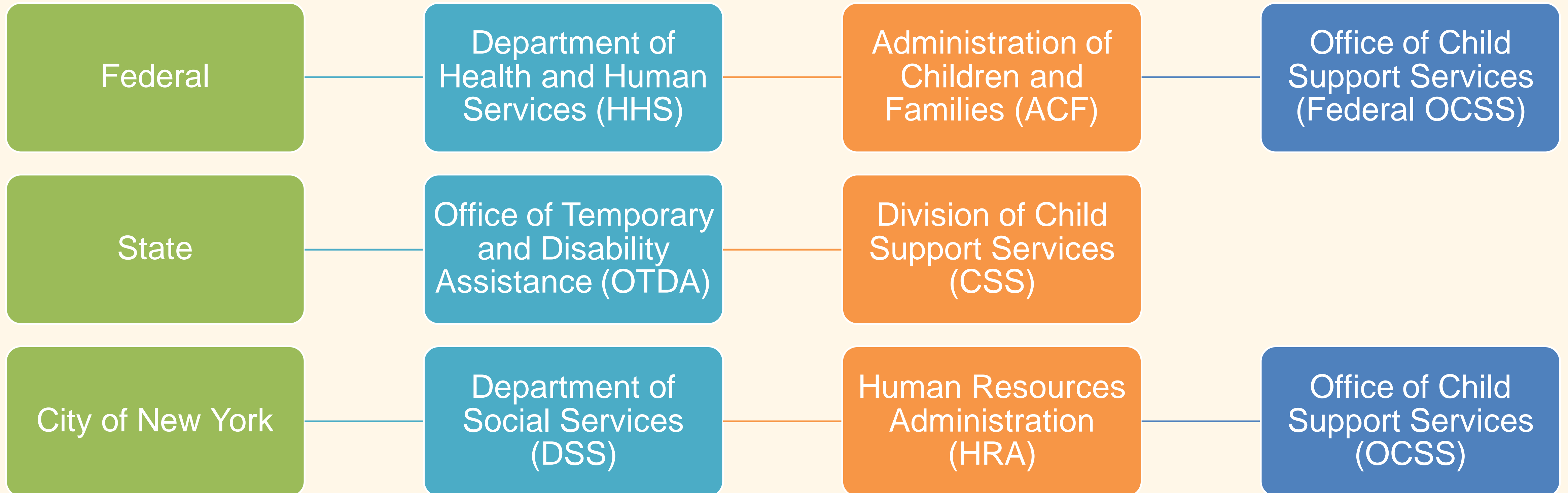
Outside all
Systems



FORMAL

1. Court only
2. Court & OCSS
Child Support
Services

Regulatory Structure



- ❖ All 50 states, 3 territories (Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and the District of Columbia have IV-D child support programs
- ❖ 60 tribal child support programs connected to the federal OCSS

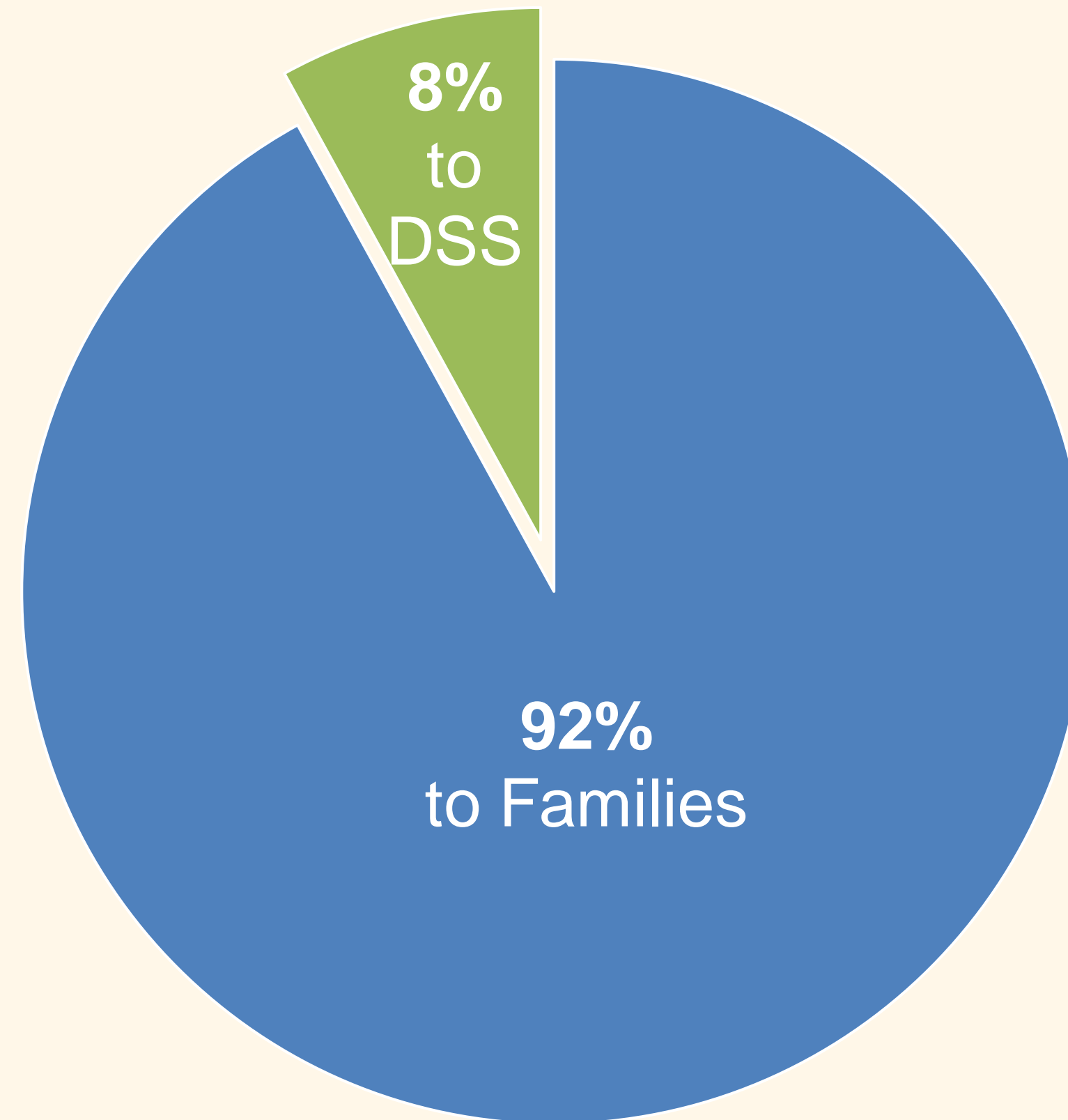
One Equity Issue: The Distribution of Payments

Type of Case	% of NYC OCSS Caseload	Type of Participation	What the CP Receives in New York State	
			Payments of Current Support	Payments on Child Support Debt
Never PA	47%	Voluntary	100%	100%
Current PA	13%	Mandatory	Up to \$100/\$200 per month	0%
Former PA	40%	Voluntary (Now)	100%	Paid first (except for tax intercepts)

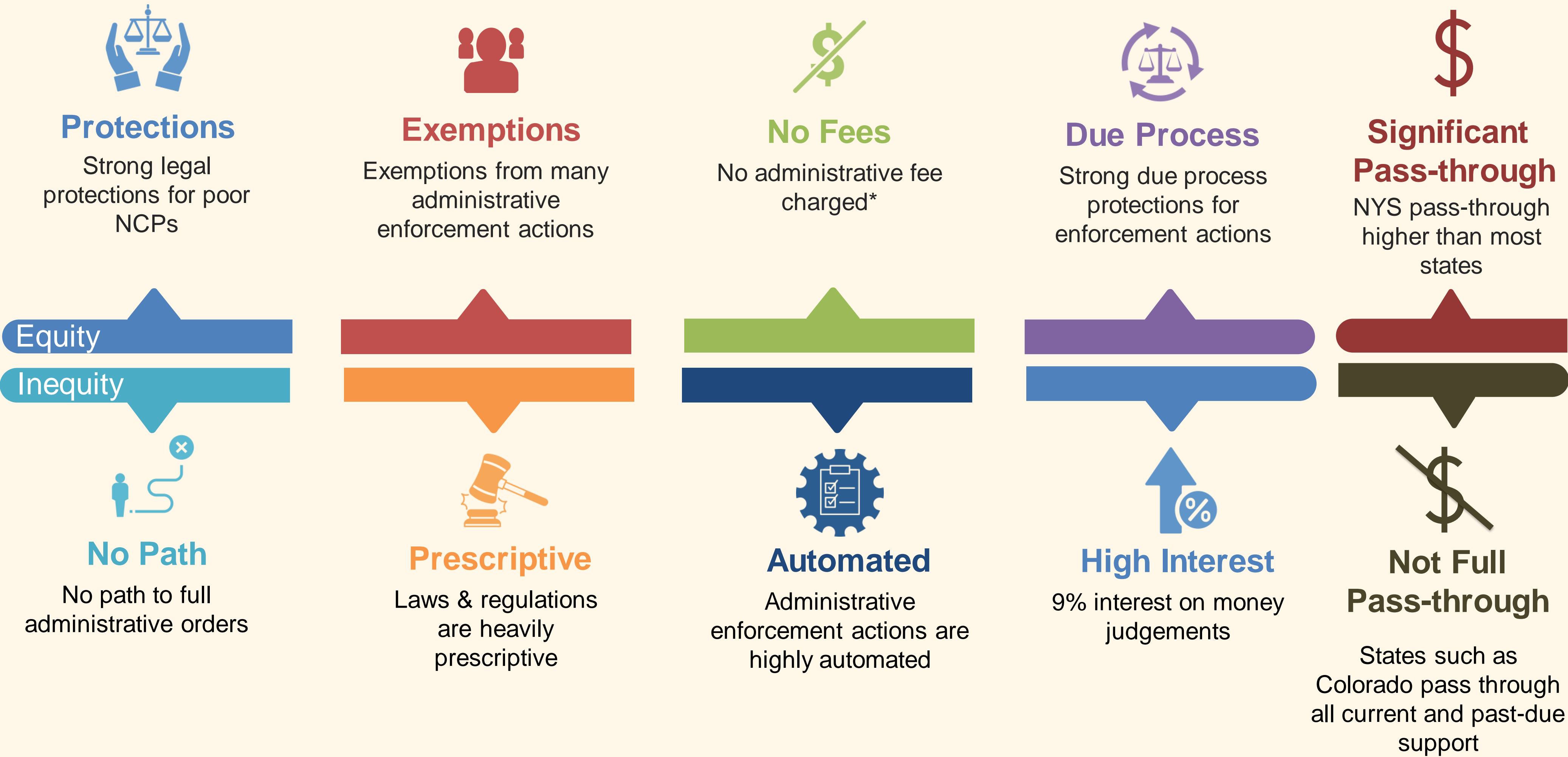
Where the Money Goes

Total Collections
Distributed to Families vs Retained by NYC DSS

2022 Total Collections: \$670,975,022



Qualities that Set NYS Apart from Other States in Terms of Equity



*Non-PA CPs pay \$35/year on any case with over \$550/year in collections. This fee is federally required. Current or former-PA CPs are exempt from this requirement.

Critical Protections and Supports for Low-income Noncustodial Parents in New York State

\$0 orders for people who have no income

\$25 orders for people with income at or below the federal poverty level for one person

- Also caps your arrears at \$500 for however long your earnings stay at this level

\$50 orders If your yearly income is below the New York State self-support reserve (\$19,683 for 2023)

- Hardship review also exempts payments on arrears if they would bring a noncustodial parent below the self-support reserve

NYS Noncustodial Parent Earned Income Credit

Exemptions from certain enforcement actions depending on income

The Courts and the NYC OCSS



THE COURT

Supreme Court serves married parents and hears custody.

Family Court serves unmarried parents and doesn't discuss custody.

Establishes & modifies all orders

Judicially enforces orders including contempt or incarceration

Ensures parents understand their rights



NYC OCSS

Services non-PA & PA cases

Supplies documentation to CPs & NCPs

Answers questions for CPs & NCPs

Reviews cases for modification or enforcement

HRA attorneys appear at PA hearings only

Law Dept handle inter-state cases

Special Programs in New York City

Employment

Agreements

Debt Reduction for NYC DSS Arrears

- Note: these only address arrears owed to NYC DSS, *not* the custodial parent and *not* other governments outside of NYC
- **Arrears Cap**
- **Arrears Credit.**
- **Parent Success.**
- **Pay It Off.**

Referrals to Mediation Providers

NYC ACCESS HRA Child Support Mobile App

Valuable Resources

 Websites	<u>NYC HRA OCSS</u>	<u>NYS Child Support</u>
 Videos	<u>OCSS Playlist on YouTube</u>	<u>How to Request a Phone Appointment with OCSS</u>
 Resources	<u>Managing Your Child Support</u>	<u>Handbook for NCPs</u> <u>Handbook for CPs</u>
 Contact Us	OCSS Customer Services dcse.cseweb@dfa.state.ny.us	
 Important Numbers	NYS Child Support Helpline (888) 208-4485	

THANK YOU

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