

Working Together

On the Road To Family Self-Sufficiency

Presenters:

Tamara Thomas, Stanislaus County DCSS

Sharon Wardale-Trejo, Merced County DCSS

Kathy Harwell, Stanislaus County CSA, Moderator



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Where We Have Been

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The Current Journey

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The Destination



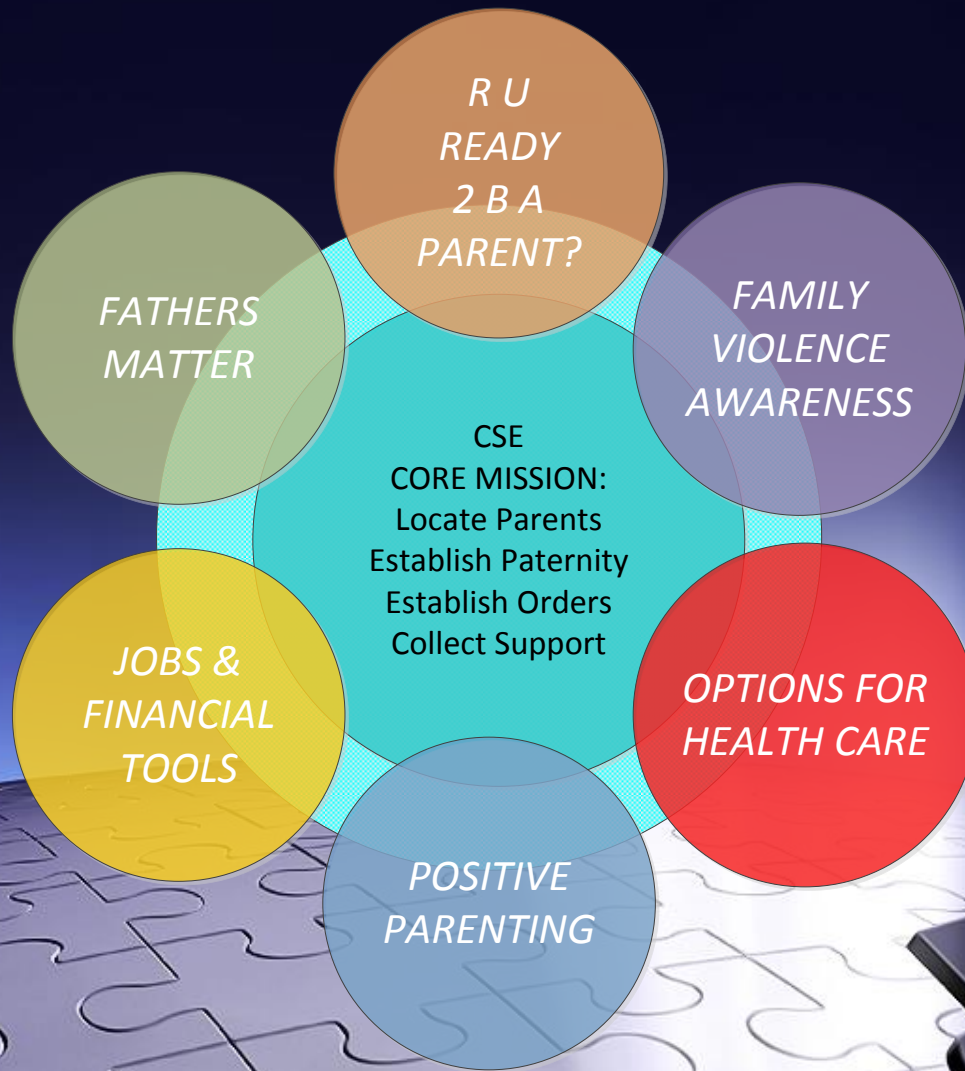
WHERE WE HAVE BEEN



Federal Vision – Family Centered Approach



California - Family Centered Approach

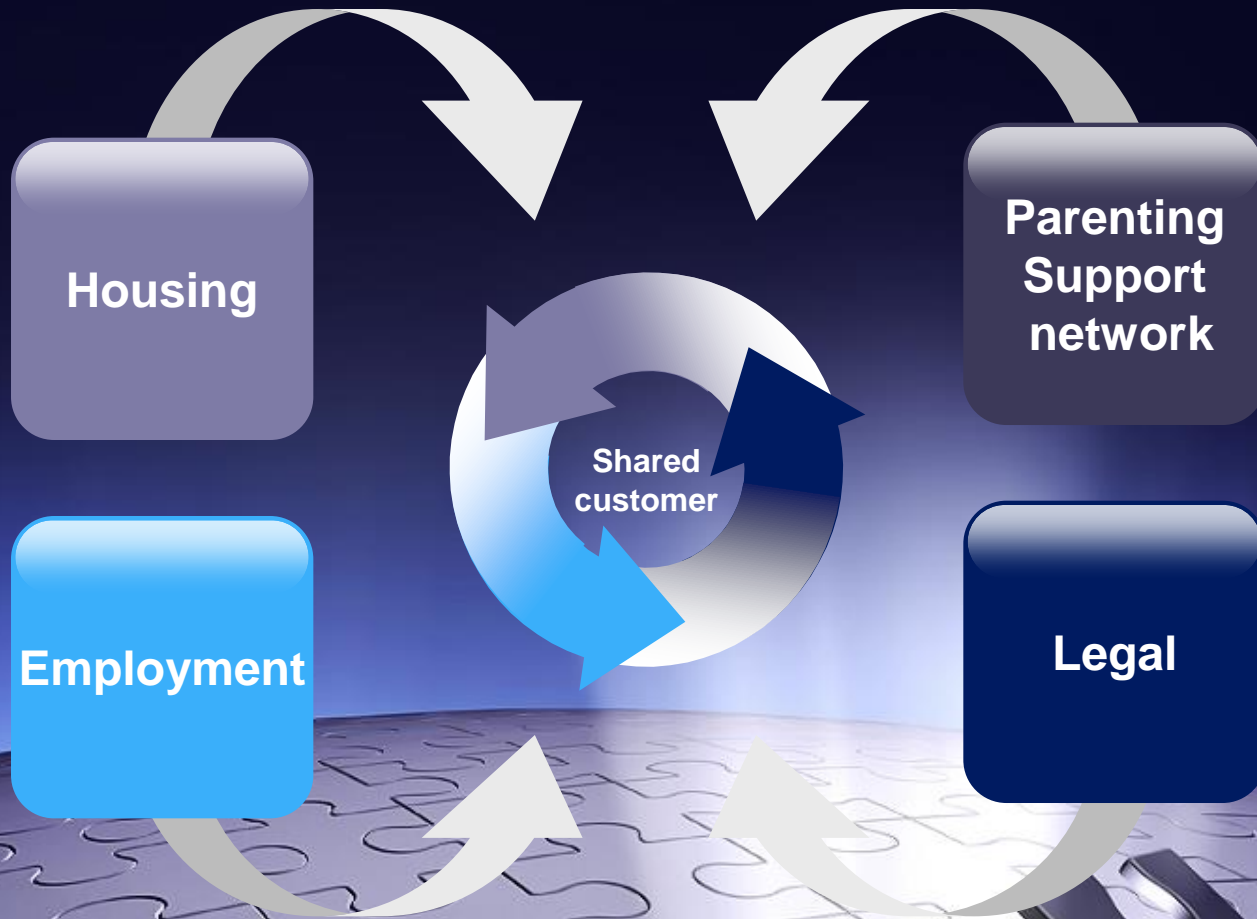


Statewide Initiatives

- 2011 CA Demonstration Grant
- 2014 CSDA Policy Symposium



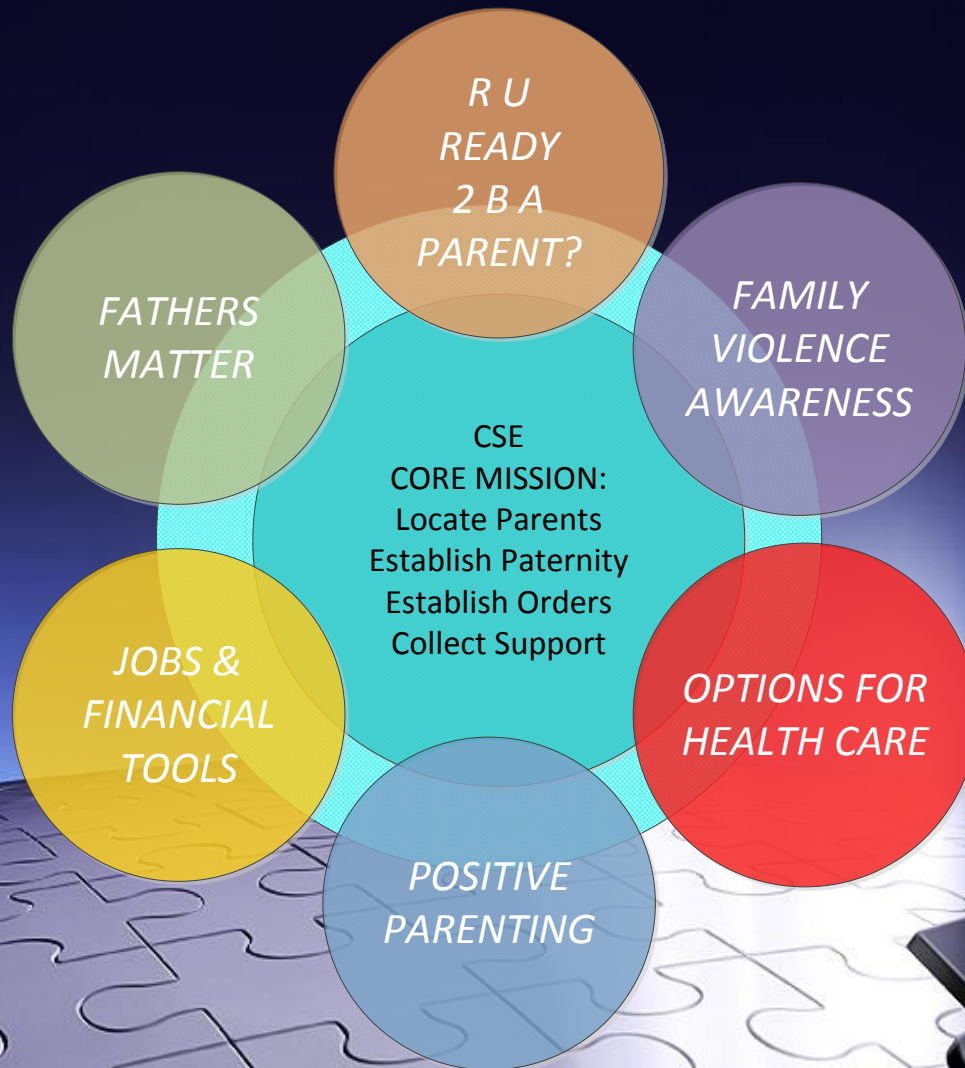
Barriers for Our Customers



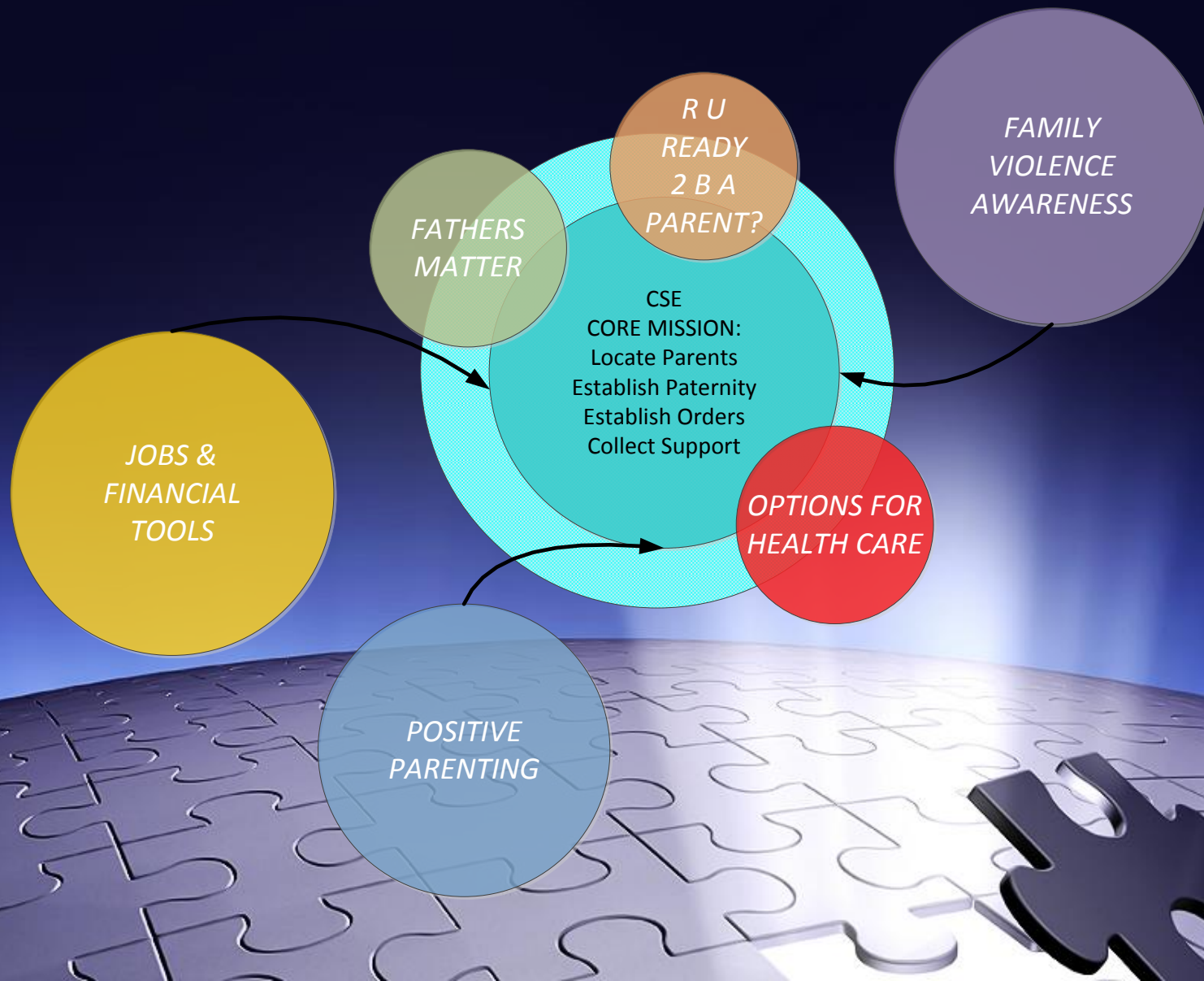
THE CURRENT JOURNEY



California - Family Centered Approach



Stanislaus County 2012 Grant



Areas of Concern

- High Unemployment in Stanislaus County
- Significant number of parents not meeting their financial obligations
- Child support agencies lack resources and expertise to address barriers that prevent parents from paying support.



An Exciting Opportunity for Stanislaus

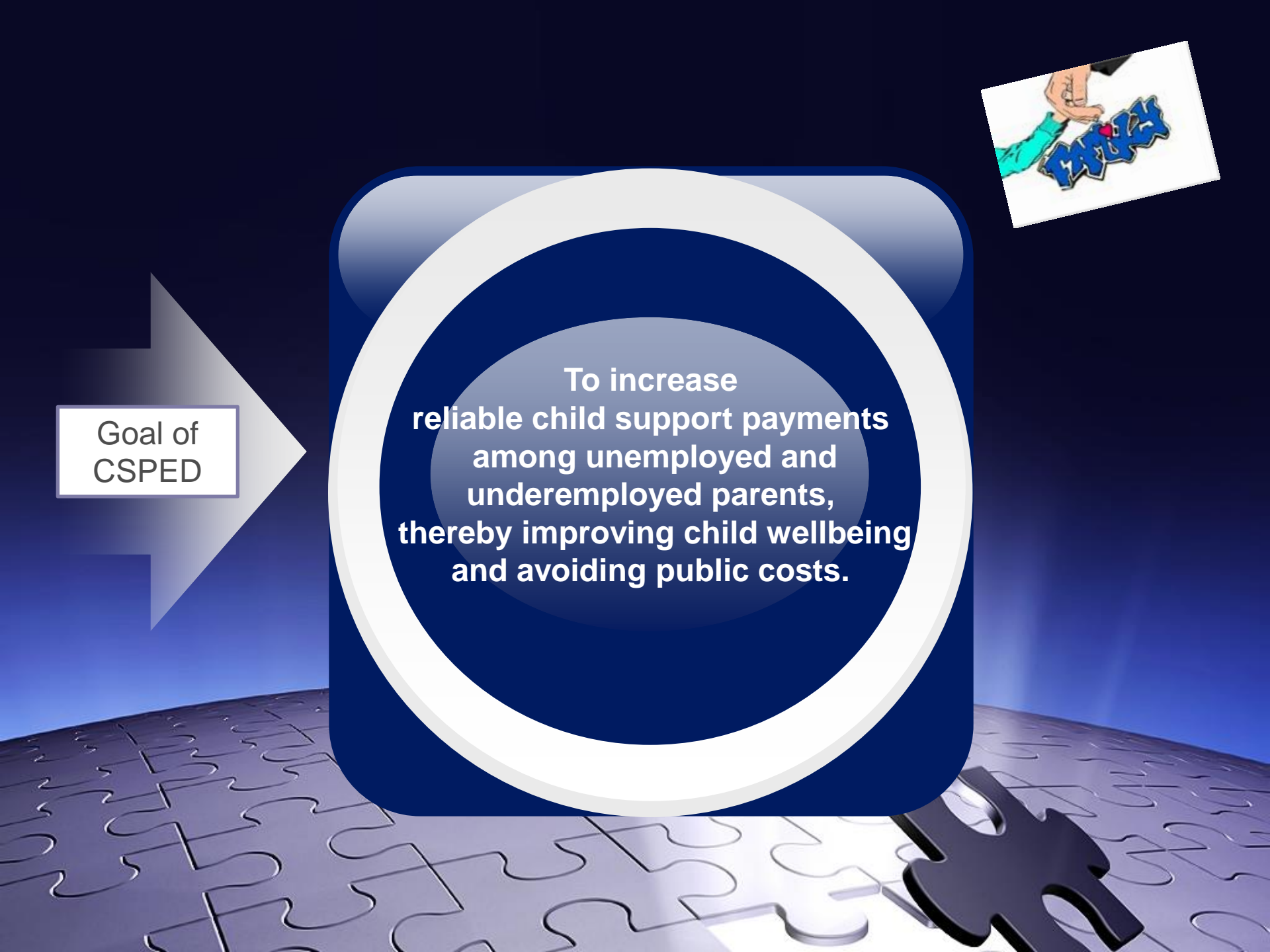
- A national evidence based demonstration project
- A chance to shape national policy
- A chance to remove barriers from our non-paying caseloads, build partnerships and seek opportunities for sustained child support payments



CSPED/PASS

- Goal of CSPED
- Target population
- Working together
- The First Years
- Outcomes





Goal of
CSPED

To increase
reliable child support payments
among unemployed and
underemployed parents,
thereby improving child wellbeing
and avoiding public costs.



Who qualifies?

Valid SSN

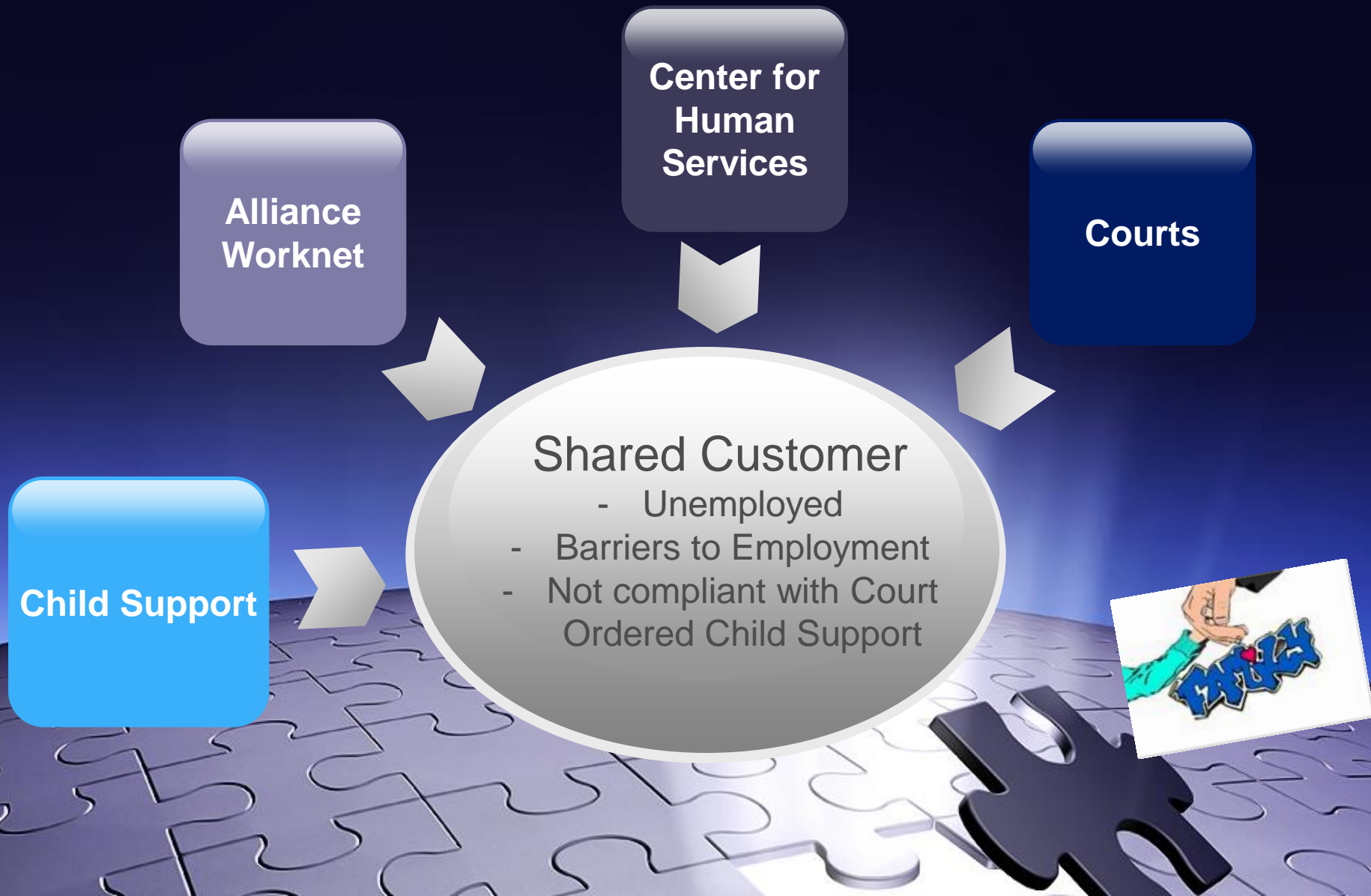
Paternity

**Lack of regular
payments due to
unemployment**

IV-D Program



Building a Partnership to Assist Shared Customers



How We Work Together

Child Support

Courts

**Alliance
Worknet**

**Center for
Human
Services**

**Women's
Haven
Center**

**Identify &
Recruit**

**Informed
consent
Baseline
survey
RA 750/750
DV screen
Enhanced CS**

Modify

**Orientations

PASS
Calendar**

Employ

**Training

Job search

Placement

Retention**

Guide

**Parenting
Sessions

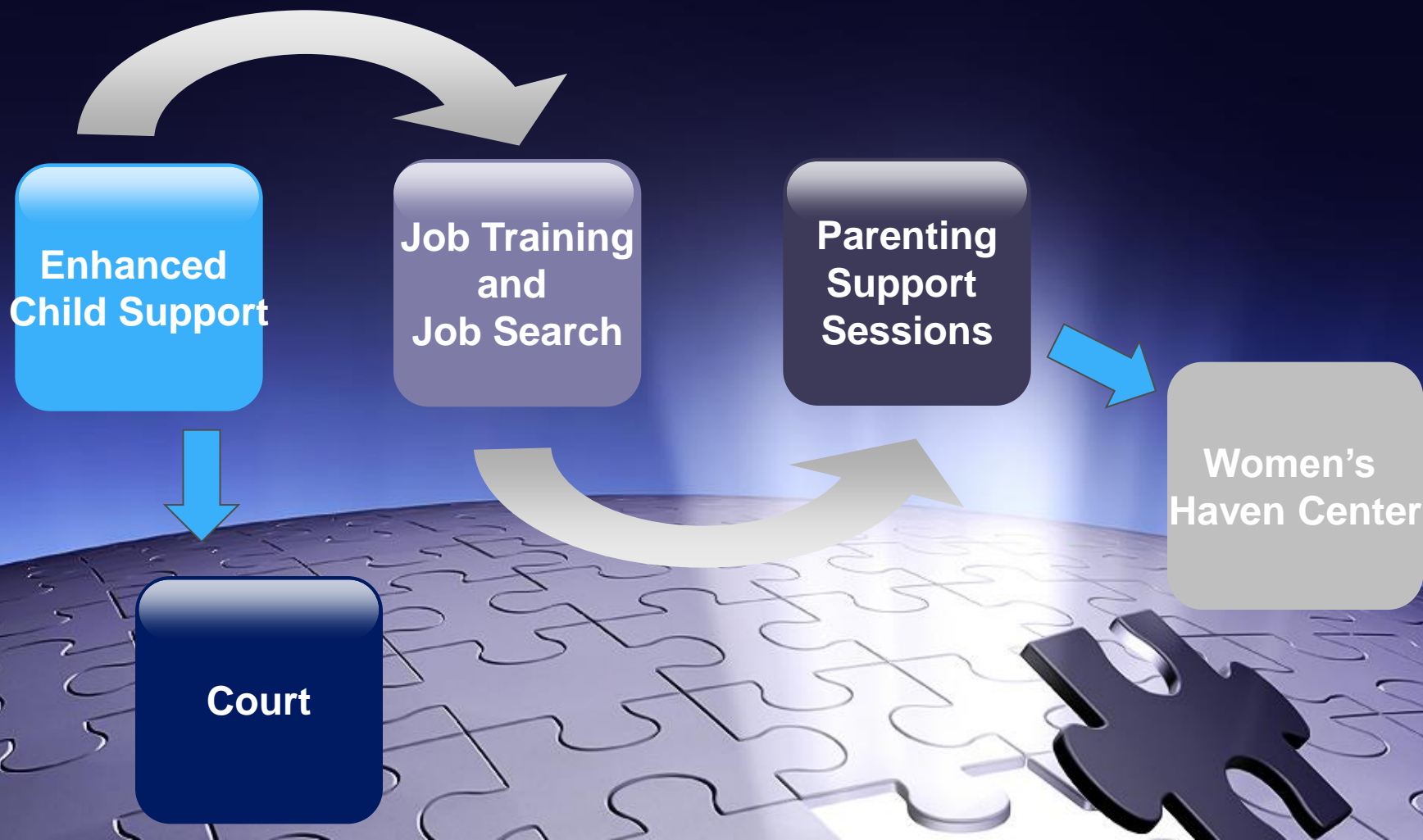
On My
Shoulders**

**Train-
Treat**

**DV
Referrals

Train Staff**

I got Extra Services! Now what?



Year One



- Submission of fatherhood curriculum and domestic violence plan for approval from OCSE;
- Developed and finalized plans with key partners;
- Worked with State for unique Arrears Reduction Plan
- Limited Outreach and Education
- Random Assignment Enrollment began October 2013



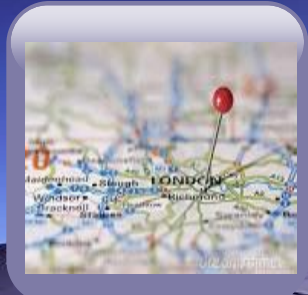
Year Two (AKA Year 1 for Enrollment)



The first few months



Mid-course corrections



Refine processes

Results:

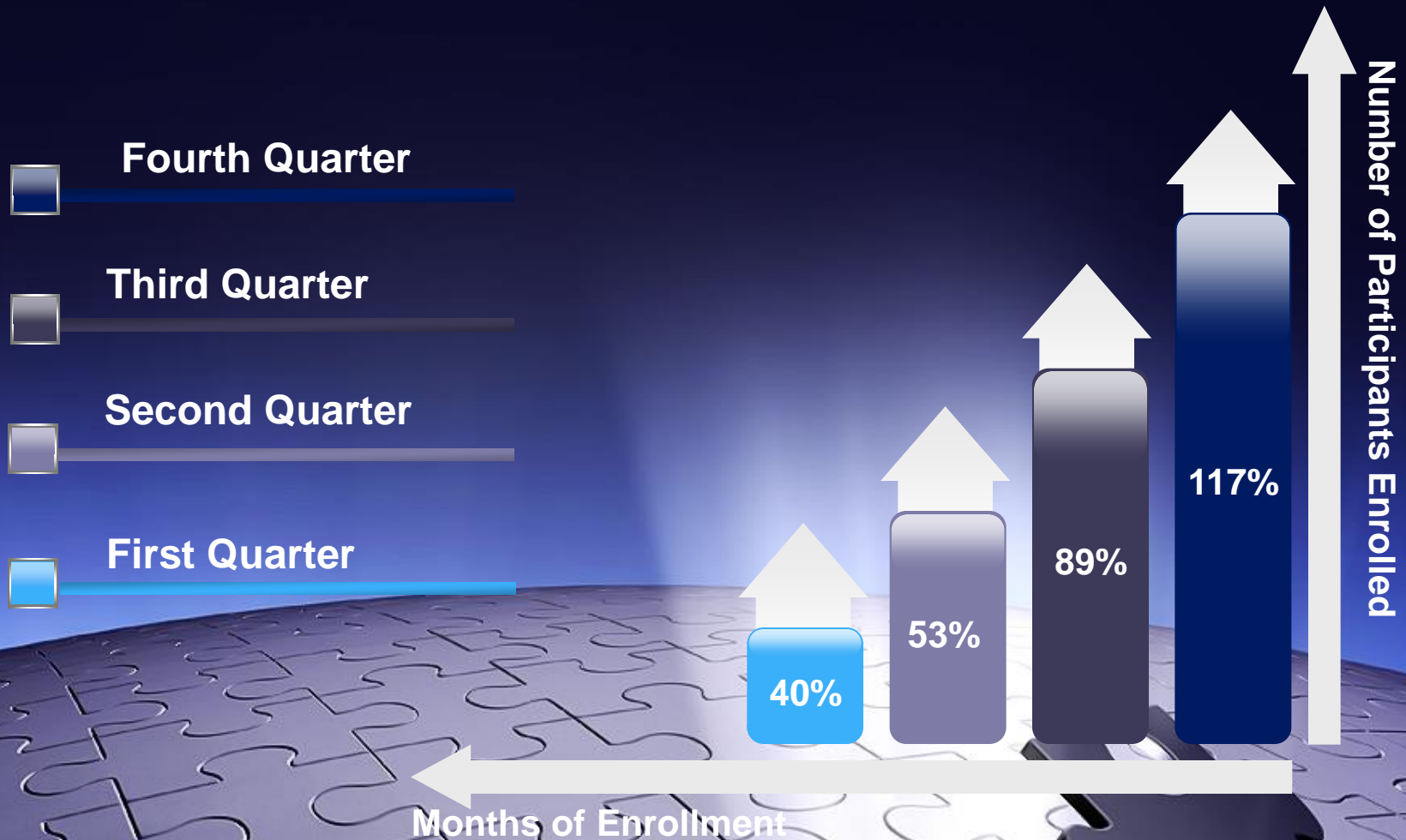
**Leading
all sites
in
September!**

Enrollment in the Program

	<i>Oct 2013</i>	<i>Nov 2013</i>	<i>Dec 2013</i>	<i>Jan 2014</i>	<i>Feb 2014</i>	<i>Mar 2014</i>	<i>Apr 2014</i>	<i>May 2014</i>	<i>Jun 2014</i>	<i>Jul 2014</i>	<i>Aug 2014</i>	<i>Sep 2014</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Stanislaus County</i>													
Target by month	14	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	509
Actual by month	11	14	17	30	22	33	40	53	114	120	78	62	594
Target cumulative	14	59	104	149	194	239	284	329	374	419	464	509	1620
Actual cumulative	11	25	42	72	94	127	167	220	334	454	532	594	594
Percent of Cumulative Target	79%	42%	40%	48%	48%	53%	59%	67%	89%	108%	115%	117%	37%



Enrollment Results of PASS Grant



Program to help parents find work

BY KEN CARLSON
ken.carlson@timesonline.com

An order to pay child support doesn't help the kids unless the parent follows through with payments. In Stanislaus County, a federally funded program will attempt to increase child support collections by helping noncustodial parents find steady employment.

The county's Department of Child Support Services will work with the Alliance Worknet on the five-year demonstration project supported by \$2.32 million in federal funds. Officials hope that 750 parents will find a place in the workforce, enabling them to provide support for their children.

Besides job assistance, fatherhood training or other counseling is provided to men more involved with their children.

WORK

staff time and other administrative costs. Stanislaus is ranked ninth among the state's 58 counties in cost effectiveness. "Stepping

Thomas said the department's 159-member staff has worked hard to find absent parents in cases in which paternity was in question. That agency relies on database and trains case workers follow the trail of absent parents through utility department cell phone records, he said.

Reducing court costs

A third-party review of the project results will show if programs like this are a cost-effective way to assist one-parent households.

Thomas Thomas, director of child support services for the county, says a successful program could help stimulate the economy, keep children of public assistance in the care of their parents and help create a healthy environment in homes.

County Child Support Services has made strides in establishing

Official figures on increasing child support payments, which average \$389 per child in Stanislaus County. Despite the economy, and a troubled county the collection has increased its cent, up from 98 percent the previous year, but still ranks in the bottom half of California counties. The agency works to get parents to make payments in the first year of an order because it often means the continue with them. Thomas said. About 90 percent of who owe child

the pilot program, officials will choose outwork people with an employment history from a load of 31,000 adult own child support. "dom selections after sometime after"

June, Thomas
The program
assistance
prior
of dom
er law
from
by

support orders from absent fathers and mothers in recent years — and received awards for doing so.

In the past year, it established child support orders in 94 percent of cases, up from 86 percent three years ago, earning the agency an award from the California Department of Child Support Services for most improved performance.

The agency collected more than \$49 million for children's support for every tax dollar.

SEE P7

The Alliance Worknet
will assess participants' job
skills and develop an em-
ployment plan, which could
include job training.
"Some may have easier
skills that they need to
age right or may need
with interview skills
job leads," said Jeff
rector of Alliance
The alliance
425 employer
job opening
"In this
never get
ness th
some

SUPPORT

Continued from A1

dads" who are behind on child support, the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement wants to know if a more forgiving approach can increase support for children in families.

[illegible][illegible]

It took some luck for Horton and others chosen for the interview, mostly applicants for a special job service and other special projects in the defense industry which involves no extra pay or extra hours. Horton says he is sure to be sent to the front lines if he is sent anywhere. He is a welder and has been in the Army for five years. He is a member of the American Legion and has a wife and two children. He is a member of the American Legion and has a wife and two children. He is a member of the American Legion and has a wife and two children.

The Modesto Bee

MAY 30, 2014

modbee.com

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2014

See 75 CENTS

Program helps parents behind in child support

TEST PROJECT AIMS TO RAISE FAMILIES' PROSPECTS

By KEN CARLSON
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Dorothy Horton of Modesto went to a county office last year to talk about her latest support case, and to his child, found that help was available that help was can make for finding.

nielau County and only seven other locations in the United States helped the 40-year-old father arrest the interviews with the Department of Child Welfare.

was a

TEST PROJECT
BY KEN CARLSON
kcarlson@modbee.com
Donyal U.

ent to a county office last
support case and, to his sur-
prise, found that help was
available for finding a job so
he can make those monthly
payments.
A program offered in Sta-

niaus County and only seven other locations in the United States helped the 41-year-old father arrange two interviews for a job at an AT&T store. Horton is taking classes to strengthen his interview skills and bolster his confidence.

After he takes the interview

ment of Child Support Services, the county restored Horton's driving privileges, which were suspended when he fell behind on payments for two children. Horton said he was fired from a grocery store job last June.

"This is going to be a great tool to help me get back on my feet," he said. "For me, it

was all about the opportunity to find work." Horton is one of 100 parents in Parkway to Self Sufficiency, or PASS, part of a federal demonstration project to offer support for nonemployed parents who are unable to make their own income or not earning enough to make their support payments. In child-support deals in a society that deals with psychological beatdown to "deadbeat" **SUPPORT** | Back page, A

[illegible]

Bee staff writer Ken Carlson can be reached at (209) 578-2321.





THE DESTINATION



What Can We Do Now?

- Identify Partners
- Open Lines of Communication
- Meet/Communicate Regularly
- Look for Opportunities to Work Together



Identifying Services & Working with Partners

- Faith-based
- Health Department
- Mental Health
- United Way
- Community Partners
- Human Services Agency
- Child Support Services
- Probation Department



Get to Know Your Partners

- Stand up
- Meet and Greet those around you
- Collect as many business cards from potential partnering agencies



Communicate Regularly

- Monthly or Quarterly Meetings
 - **Customers in Common**
 - **IV-A/IV-D Meetings**
- Director One-on-One Meetings
- All Staff Training
 - **Participate in New Employee Orientation**
 - **Training to Reinforce Staff Awareness and Knowledge of Services Offered**



What do we talk about?

- Identify our common goal
- Recognize our differences
- Operational processes
- Outreach
- Training
- Future opportunities
 - Shared services
 - Grant opportunities
 - Location of services



Look for Opportunities to Partner

- Local Initiatives
 - **AB109 Merced County Leadership for Life**
 - **Stanislaus County Probation Project 2011**
 - **All Dad's Matter & All Mom's Matter**
- Grants
 - **2012 Parent Employment Demonstration Grant**
 - **2014 Behavioral Interventions in Child Support Demonstration Grant**
- 2015 CSDA/CWDA Policy Symposium
 - **Focusing on the well-being of children**



Merced County Partnership

- **All Dads Matter**

- Partnership with Human Services Agency and Department of Child Support Services
- Engaging Fathers
- Parenting Skills
- Leadership for Life
 - Teaching Advocacy Skills



Multi-County Approach



2015 CSDA/CWDA Symposium

CSDA

Child Support

CWDA

Human Services

State of CA

Agency and Policymakers

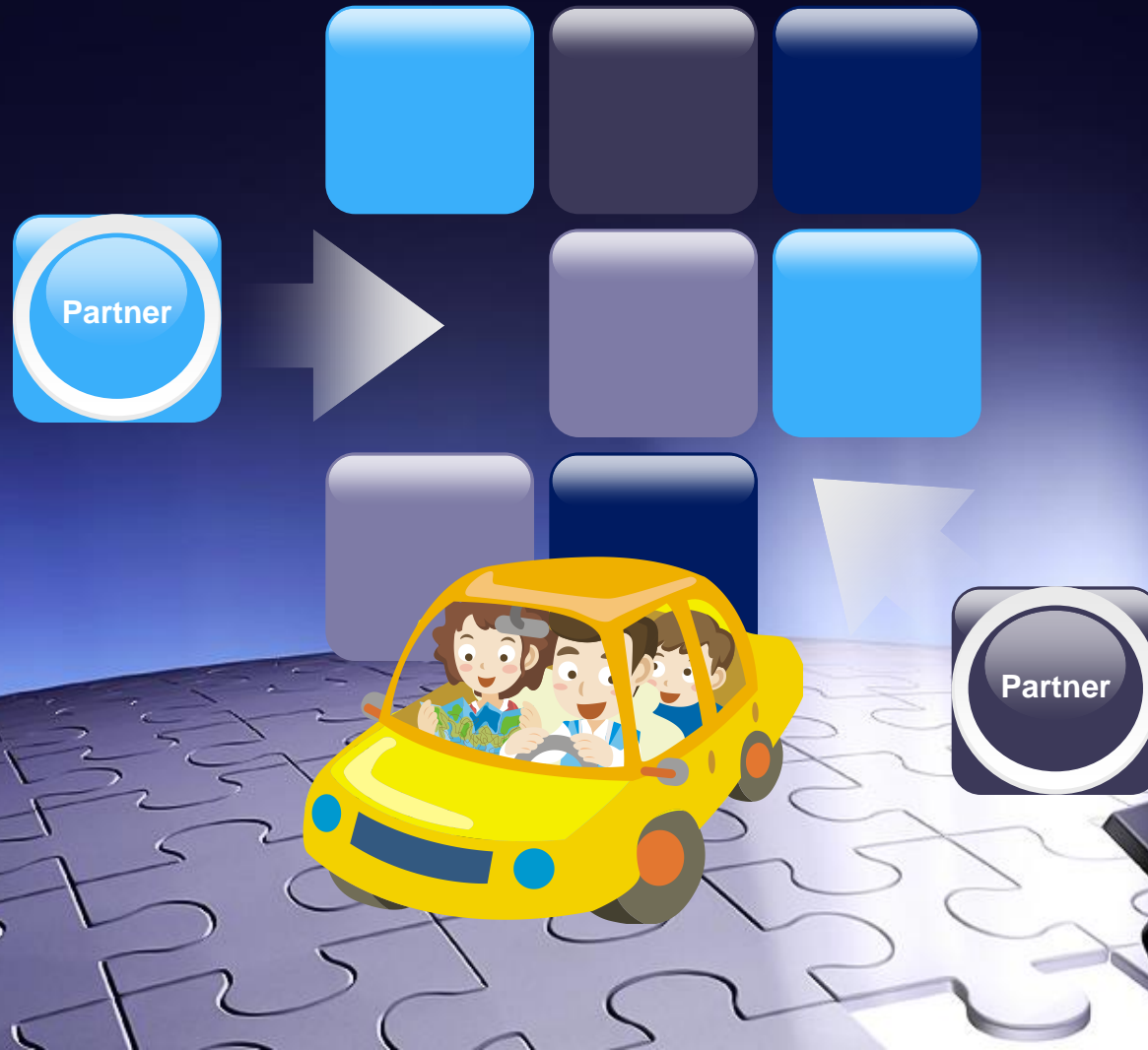
**Increasing
Resources**

**Involve
Greater
Community**

**Importance
of The
Parent**



Bringing It All Together



Thank You!

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