



O-PEP

**A New Approach To
Obtaining Child
Support**

**CFSC
Snowmass, CO
June 2, 2014**

For 40 years, the child support program has struggled to address the problem of unpaid child support.

Great advances in paternity and order establishment has improved the program immensely, enforcement has become as impactful as the IRS, but still . . . *there exists non-payers . . .*



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What is CO-PEP

- Federally funded demonstration project
- \$2.3 million 5 year project that began 9/30/13 and includes 3 full years of services
- Designed to serve unemployed and underemployed NCPs
 - Provides intensive employment service
 - Enhanced child support services
 - Aims to secure consistent MSP payments
- If successful, federal match dollars may be permanently available for these type of services.



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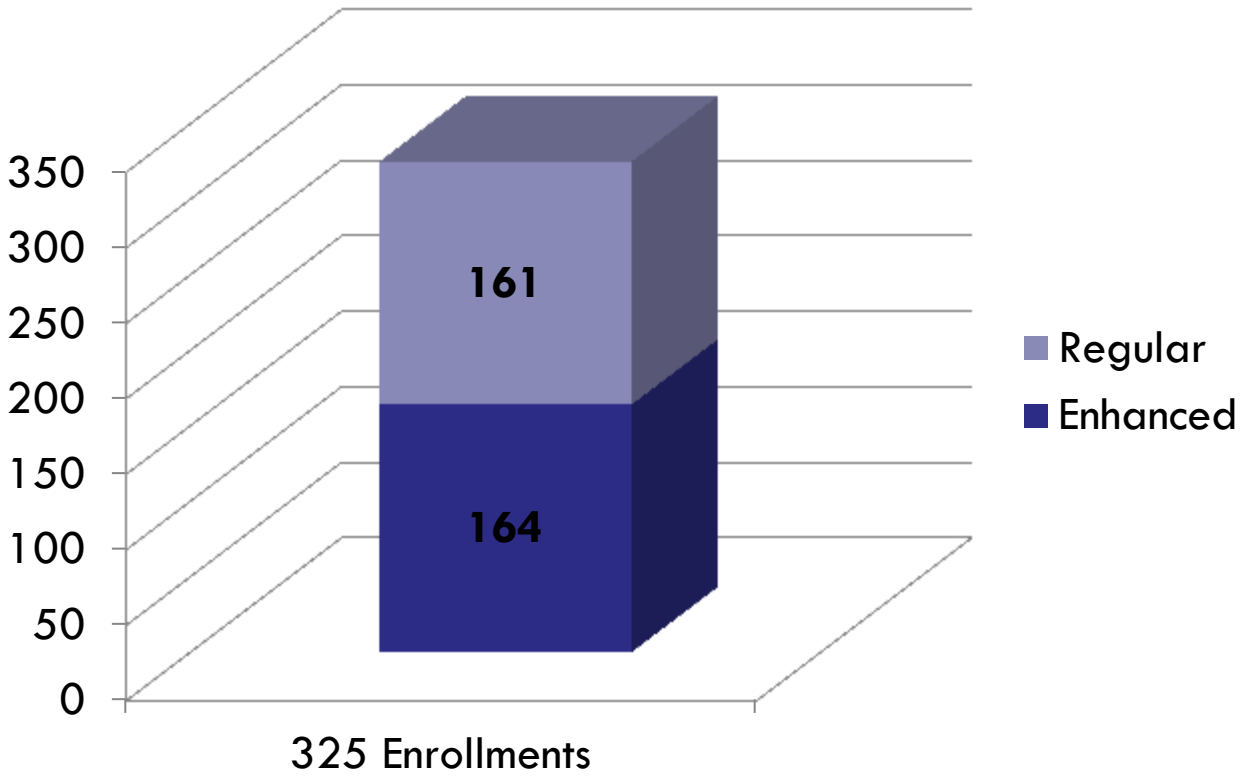
What are the CO-PEP services

- **Job search assistance and job readiness training, assistance with transportation, job placement/development, work clothes, and education directly related to employment, including education to obtain a GED.**
- **Collaboration with RE-HIRE Colorado vendors to utilize transitional job possibilities with NCPs**
- **Proactively review and right size child support orders**
- **Suspend automated enforcement activities while NCP in program**
- **Arrears forgiveness – 10% per payment up to 50%**
- **Fatherhood/Parenting – 16 hour curriculum**



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CO-PEP Numbers So Far



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CO-PEP Numbers So Far – Extra Services

- **58% Employed – average of 44 days to employment placement**
- **43% made payment in the 3 months before enrollment**
- **53% made payment in the 3 months following enrollment**
- **53% attended parenting/co-parenting workshops**
- **25% were assisted with expedited order modification**



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Are We Insane If We Are Not CO-PEP-ING?

**Insanity: doing the same thing over
and over again and expecting
different results**

-Albert Einstein



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Are We Insane If We Are Not CO-PEP-ING?

Consider an Urban Institute study that 60% of unpaid child support in a given year is owed from NCPs with reported incomes of less than \$10,000 the previous year.

Assume most NCPs want to support their child but lack the means to do so – then assume you or your community can help them find suitable employment, see their children if no DV and right size their child support orders if appropriate.



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**Case Manager
Prowers County**



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Erica James

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Faith Rumfelt

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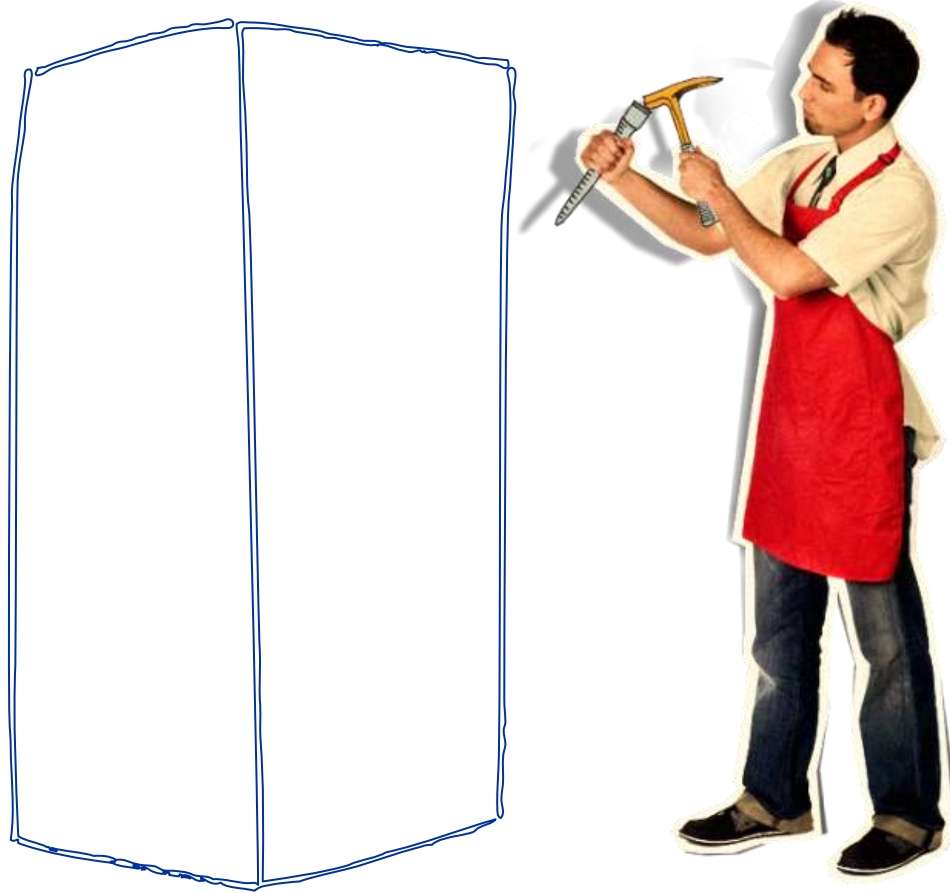
Group Exercise

Scenarios



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Carving Out Services In Your County



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Group Exercise

Q & A



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If you have further questions:

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