

The U.S. as an Engine for the Hague Convention

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Hague Treaty Process in the U.S.

Steps before the Treaty can enter into force for the United States:

- The U.S. Congress must adopt, and there must be enacted, implementing legislation for the Treaty – the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) 2008
- All U.S. states must enact UIFSA 2008 by the effective date in the legislation
- The President must sign the instrument of ratification for the Treaty
- The U.S. will deposit its instrument of ratification with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- The Treaty will enter into force for the U.S. on the first day of the first month that is not less than three months after the U.S. deposit date

Profile of U.S. International Child Support

- Central Authority: U.S. Office of Child Support Enforcement
- Case processing delegated to U.S. states
- International Caseload: approx. 1% of the U.S. Caseload (approx. 158,000 cases)
- Bilateral Agreements: 26 Foreign Reciprocating Countries (including 12 Canadian Provinces and Territories)
- Requirements for bilateral agreements:
 - Child support procedures are substantially similar
 - Services provided at no cost
 - Designated Central Authority

U.S. Negotiation Goals and Principles

U.S. Goals for the Treaty:

- The U.S. was able to join
- Emphasized parental responsibility and results
- Would be broadly accepted

U.S. Principles:

- Administrative Cooperation
- Central Authority: one central contact
- Cost Free Services

Profile of U.S. Child Support Caseload

- Caseload: 15.8 million cases
- 54 Jurisdictions: 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands
- Support Collected: more than \$27 billion
- Support Due: over \$31 billion
- Children: 17.3 million children (1 in 4 U.S. children participate in the program)

OCSE Fiscal Year 2011 Preliminary Data

U.S. Child Support as Social Safety Net

The “Big Three ” Income Supplement Programs for Children:

- Low-income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Food Assistance (SNAP)
- Child Support

Poverty Profile of U.S. Caseload:

- 1 in 2 poor children
- 37% of custodial families are poor
- 25% of noncustodial parents are poor
- 90% of custodial families are within 400% of poverty
- 39% of parents were never married
- 17% of custodial parents are fathers

Child Support Family-Centered Strategies

Recovery of Maintenance in the
European Union and Worldwide
Heidelberg Conference 5 – 8 March 2013



What the U.S. is Doing to Improve Performance: A Three-Tiered Strategy

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1. Focus on the Fundamentals
2. Caseload Segmentation
3. Expand Access to Services