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Virginia Division of Child Support Enforcement Awards Contract for Paternity Establishment Program

RICHMOND, Va. (March 25, 2013) – The Virginia Department of Social Services' Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) is pleased to announce the award of its paternity establishment contract to the Center for the Support of Families (CSF).

The agency underwent a rigorous nationwide search for a private sector vendor to partner with DCSE, all 58 of Virginia's birthing hospitals, Local Departments of Social Services and the Virginia Office of Vital Records. CSF has operated the Paternity Establishment Program (PEP) since 2008 and, during that time, facilitated the establishment of 121,879 paternities. The contract is for two years with three one-year optional renewals valued at \$3.1 million.

PEP offers unmarried parents the opportunity to establish paternity for their newborns by voluntarily acknowledging paternity prior to leaving the birthing hospital. In 2012, more than 36 percent of all births in Virginia were to unmarried parents, underscoring the need for PEP. The Commonwealth's 2012 average paternity establishment rate was 69.38 percent, an increase over the previous year. This achievement was in large measure due to CSF's extensive outreach with hospitals and communities.

CSF is an experienced national leader in consulting and program redesign for health and human services agencies. CSF has over 20 years of experience in the field and is active in all 50 states. For more information, visit <http://www.csfsite.org/index.html>.

For more information on child support in Virginia, visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/dcse/>.

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