



**NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FOR FOSTER CARE
& PERMANENCY PLANNING**

at the Hunter College
School of Social Work

INFORMATION PACKET: *Fatherhood*

By Kristine Schuerger

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INFORMATION PACKET

Fatherhood

Prepared by Kristine Schuerger

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, otherwise known as *Welfare Reform*, included provisions to promote marriage, reduce out-of-wedlock childbirths, and to encourage parental responsibility for their children. One particular concern of many of the legislators who shaped this policy was the growing number of poor, single mothers reliant on government assistance to raise their children. For decades, programs and policies aimed at redressing the feminization of poverty and the trend toward fatherlessness in the United States have met with limited success. Now that government assistance to poor families was to be time-limited under PRWORA, these issues have gained new urgency and have been pushed to the forefront of the public agenda.

Under President Bush, the Department of Health and Human Services has expanded the *Fatherhood Initiative*, originally introduced by the Clinton Administration in 1995. Aimed directly at “promoting responsible fatherhood,” this initiative encourages states to use TANF funds to develop programs that help fathers establish positive relationships with their children, provide financial and emotional support and enhance parenting skills. Moreover, all government agencies have been ordered to “incorporate fathers, wherever appropriate, in government-initiated research regarding children and families.”

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of children growing up in homes without fathers in the past forty years. In consequence, research has indicated that children from families in which fathers are absent or non-supportive are at significantly greater risk emotionally, developmentally, academically and economically. Additionally, researchers have noted that in low-income families the risk is greatest as there are often specific barriers to becoming more involved faced by low-income fathers. These barriers can include poverty/inability to pay child support, unemployment, limited education, legal problems/incarceration, substance abuse, discrimination and having grown up in fatherless homes themselves.

Given the changing nature of funding, practice and population focus in many social service agencies on account of Fatherhood Initiatives, it is important for providers and consumers to knowledgeable of relevant issues and ideologies. Contained in this Fatherhood information packet is a fact sheet with statistics, a review of policies and legislation, references and suggested readings, information on promising practices and a list of web resources.

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Fact Sheet

[Taken from [Fathers Matter 2001](#) a report by the [Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth](#)]

Dads Matter Economically.

- The Census Bureau estimates that almost 20 million children in this country – 29 percent – live in single-parent homes. The poverty rate for children in two-parent families is 8.4 percent, but for children in divorced families, it's 31.3 percent, and for children whose parents never married, it's 64.1 percent.
- In 1996, only 30 percent of low-income children who lived apart from their fathers received child support, according to the Urban Institute.
- According to the Urban Institute analysis of data from the 1997 National Survey of American Families (NSAF), 40 percent of children with nonresident fathers are poor, while only 23 percent of nonresident fathers have family incomes that are low. Thus, children with nonresident fathers are 70 percent more likely to be poor than their fathers.

Dads Matter Economically and Intellectually.

- A survey of more than 20,000 parents by the National Center for Education Statistics found that children perform better in school, both academically and emotionally, when their fathers are involved with their schooling, including attending school meetings and volunteering at schools.
- A national study of 1,250 fathers, published by the *Journal of Marriage and Family Policy*, showed that children whose fathers share meals, spend leisure time with them, or help them with reading and homework do significantly better academically than children whose fathers do not.
- A survey of African-American men by the Urban Institute revealed that men who had experienced a positive relationship with fathers who cared and sacrificed for them are more likely to become responsible fathers themselves.
- A survey of 455 teenagers, published by the journal *Adolescence*, found that students who reported higher self-esteem and lower rates of depression also reported greater levels of intimacy with their fathers than other teens.

Many Fathers Have Limited Involvement With Their Children, in Part Because They Face Obstacles to Becoming More Involved.

- A 1999 Poll, "Fathering in America," sponsored by the National Center for Fathering, found that only 44 percent of Americans think that most fathers know what is going on in their children's lives.
- The same poll showed that only 32 percent of fathers share meals with their children on a daily basis and 56 percent think that fathers today spend less time with their children than their own fathers did.
- The poll found that nearly 58 percent of Americans don't think employers recognize the tension fathers face between the demands of family and the demands of work.
- A separate poll by the National center for Fathering found that 40 percent of fathers never read to their children. Only 41 percent knew the names of their

children's teachers. Of respondents, 32 percent had never attended a class event or school meeting; 58 percent had never volunteered at their children's schools.

These Obstacles Are Greatest for Low-Income, Non-Custodial Fathers.

- While some non-custodial fathers are undeniably "deadbeat dads," others are just plain broke. Unemployment, ongoing legal problems, and poor relationships with their children's mothers are all factors that can prevent low-income non-custodial fathers from spending time with their children. The Center for the Study for Social Policy and other researchers have noted, for instance, that nonresident fathers become more involved with their children when they can provide financial support, but they can be frustrated and ashamed into ceasing contact when economic stresses increase.

Recent Research Provides Us More Information about Barriers Facing Low-Income Unwed Fathers.

They begin fatherhood with good intentions, but their commitment fades over time.

- In the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing study, a national study of unwed families currently underway in 20 U.S. cities, 53 percent of low-income unwed parents were living together when their children were born; 29 percent of unwed couples were still romantically involved but not living together after their children were born; 10 percent remained friends although they were no longer romantically involved; 10 percent no longer had any relationship by the time their children were born.
- Of fathers in the Fragile Families Study, 78 percent provided support during pregnancy. In addition, 86 percent of the mothers planned to put the fathers' names on the birth certificates and wanted the fathers to help raise the children. Fully 86 percent of fathers planned to help with the children in the future.
- According to the 1993 book, Young Unwed Fathers by researchers Robert Lerman and Theodora Ooms, approximately 75 percent of men who are not living with their children at the time of birth never live with them subsequently.
- Lerman and Ooms also found that 57 percent of unwed fathers visit their children at least once a week during that the children's first two years, but that number drops to less than 25 percent by the time the child reaches age 7.

They don't get far in school.

- In the 1990 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), there were 3.4 million non-custodial fathers with incomes below 200 percent of poverty. About 43 percent of these men were high school dropouts. Only 18 percent had more than 12 years of education. The average low-income non-custodial father had only 11 years of education.

They have low skills and earnings, and they're frequently unemployed.

- The Urban Institute's analysis of the Survey of Income and Program Participation data shows that in 1990, only 10 percent low-income non-custodial fathers worked full time, year-round. 45 percent worked intermittently.
- The average wage for these men was \$5.40 per hour, and their average personal income was \$3, 932. Most worked in low-skill jobs, as operators (42 percent) or in service jobs (23 percent).

They have problems with the law.

- The 1990 SIPP data indicate that at least three-quarters of low-income non-custodial fathers have been arrested or have ongoing legal problems; 46 percent have been convicted of a crime; nearly 5 percent of the fathers were in prison at the time they were interviewed.

They have other barriers to employment.

- In the Fragile Families Study, 10 percent of the fathers reported problems with drugs or alcohol; 42 percent had at least one health related barrier to employment.

There is some evidence that they grew up in fatherless homes.

- In the PFS sample, less than half of the participants had lived with their own fathers when they were age 14.

There is some evidence that racism makes the situation worse.

- Department of Labor officials have testified before Congress that discrimination in employment, as well as residential segregation and the absence of jobs in the inner cities, contribute to the low incomes of many minority men. SIPP data indicate that low-income non-custodial fathers are disproportionately minority; 38 percent are African-American and 19 percent are Hispanic.

They do not support their children financially – in part because they have a hard time supporting themselves.

- Almost one quarter of all non-custodial parents do not pay child support because they can't afford it. In 1990, according to the Urban Institute, 23 percent of fathers who paid no support had incomes below the income standard for food stamp eligibility. Of these fathers, 90 percent had worked or looked for in 1990, but only 18 percent had worked full time and year round. In 1998 dollars, their personal incomes that year averaged \$8, 956.

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References and Suggested Readings

Visit the [FatherLit Database](#) of the [National Center on Fathers and Families](#) for a complete and current bibliography. The database contains a compilation of citations, annotations, and abstracts for over 8,500 basic and policy research publications on fathers, families and child welfare. Includes empirical, conceptual and clinical research, varied in analytical depth and intended for diverse audiences. The database is divided into seven libraries (Core Learning Areas): *Fathers Care, Father Presence Matters, Co-parenting, Role Transitions, Joblessness/Unemployment, Systemic Barriers, Intergenerational Learning*.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (*available online*): *List taken from [Family Formation](#)

- [Births Outside of Marriage: Perceptions vs. Reality](#) (**Child Trends**, March 2001)
- [Evaluation of Family Preservation and Reunification Programs: Interim Report](#) (**Westat**, January 2001)
- [Family Formation and Welfare Reform](#) (Presented at the **Ford School of Public Policy**, February 2001)
- [Fatherhood Initiatives: Connecting Fathers to Their Children](#) (**Congressional Research Service**, June 2001)
- [Fragile Families, Welfare Reform, and Marriage](#) (**Brookings**, December 2001)
- [Honey I'm Home. Changes in Living Arrangements in the Late 1990s](#) (**Urban Institute**, June 2001)
- [Income and Demographic Characteristics of Nonresident fathers in 1993](#) (**DHHS**, June 2000)
- [Making Room For Daddy: Fathers, Marriage and Welfare Reform](#) (Presented at the **Ford School of Public Policy**, February 2001)
- [Strengthening Couples and Marriage in Low-Income Communities](#) (**CLASP**, February 2002)
- [Wedding Bell Blues: Marriage and Welfare Reform](#) (**Brookings**, June 2001)
- [What Works to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Childbearing, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#) (**Child Trends**, May 2002)

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Review of Policies and Legislation

FEDERAL

1996: Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA)

Key Provisions in PRWORA Related to Fathers:

(taken from the [National Center for Children in Poverty](#))

- **Increasing child support enforcement.** The federal law increases the level of expected child support enforcement and paternity establishment by the states.
- **Eliminating barriers to employment.** The PRA, as amended by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, allows states to use Welfare-to-Work funds for noncustodial parents of children whose parents are TANF recipients with specified barriers to employment and who are long-term welfare recipients or are at risk of reaching their lifetime limits.
- **Reducing out-of-wedlock births.** Congress included a provision in the new welfare block program to reward states that reduce the number of out-of-wedlock births that develop new approaches to prevent out-of-wedlock childbearing without increasing the number of abortions. An annual amount of \$100 million has been set aside to reward states for their efforts. Up to five states per year are eligible for a maximum of \$20 million (\$25 million if fewer than five states qualify) annually.
- **Increasing access and visitation for noncustodial parents.** A pool of \$10 million in grants is available to states for the development of access and visitation programs to increase the involvement of noncustodial/nonresident parents in the lives of their children.

Current federal legislative activity:

(taken from [National Governors Association](#))

- ◇ Rep. Wally Herger (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Human Resources Subcommittee, has included provisions related to fatherhood initiatives in legislation to reauthorize welfare reform. **H.R. 4090**, the ***Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act***, authorizes \$20 million each year FY 2003 through FY 2007 for demonstration projects related to the promotion and support of responsible fatherhood and healthy marriage. Under the proposal, competitive grants would be awarded to public and nonprofit community entities, including religious organizations and tribal organizations. *The bill was renumbered as H.R. 4737 and approved by the House on May 16, 2002 by a vote of 229-197.*
- ◇ In the Senate, Senators Evan Bayh (D-Ind.) and Pete Domenici (R-N.M.) have introduced **S. 653**, the ***Responsible Fatherhood Act***. S. 653 provides \$25 million each year to states for media campaigns “to promote the formation and maintenance of married two-parent families, strengthen fragile families, and to promote responsible fatherhood,” and \$50 million each year to states to support programs that “promote responsible

fatherhood, and promote or sustain marriage.” *Provisions of S. 653 are incorporated into S. 2524, the Work and Family Act, introduced by Senator Bayh, Senator Tom Carper (D-Del.) and others. S. 2524 is a comprehensive bill which, among other things, reauthorizes TANF.*
*[Visit [Sen. Bayh's homepage](#) for details of legislative efforts]

Federal/State Fatherhood Initiatives
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
(taken from [HHS Fact Sheet “Promoting Responsible Fatherhood”](#))

NEW HHS FATHERHOOD INITIATIVES

To complement other HHS programs aimed at promoting involved, committed, responsible fatherhood, HHS' fiscal year 2002 budget proposal requests a total of \$131 million to launch two new programs aimed directly at promoting responsible fatherhood. These initiatives are:

Promoting responsible fatherhood. Helping young mothers is an important part of HHS efforts to assist America's families, but it is also important to recognize the critical role that fathers play in the lives of their families. The budget request includes \$64 million to launch a new initiative to promote responsible fatherhood and healthy marriages. Most of the money would be awarded in competitive grants to faith-based and community organizations for skill-based marriage and parenting education, job training and other services that help fathers provide emotional and financial support to their children. The new initiative will complement related efforts in other HHS programs.

Mentoring children of prisoners . The arrest of a parent can result in traumatic separations for children, often followed by erratic shifts from one caregiver to another. Children of low-income parents who are in prison suffer disproportionate rates of many severe social problems including substance abuse, gang involvement, early childbearing and delinquency. The budget request includes \$67 million to promote a new effort to help these children maintain their connection to an imprisoned parent when appropriate. Under the initiative, states would provide grants to assist faith-based and community organizations that assist the children of prisoners and probationers. Grants could support family-rebuilding programs that will help to reunite children and parents once the parent is released from prison if it is in the best interest of the child.

HHS PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD

Dads play indispensable roles that cannot be measured in dollars and cents: nurturer, mentor, disciplinarian, moral instructor, and skills coach, among other roles. HHS funds a variety of programs to help fathers establish positive relationships with their children, provide financial and emotional support, and develop responsible parenting skills. These programs include:

Partners for Fragile Families. Through the Partners for Fragile Families program, HHS has approved waivers to allow 10 states to demonstrate ways that child support enforcement programs can partner with faith-based and community groups to help young unmarried fathers. By working with non-profit and faith-based partners to provide employment, health, and social services, these demonstration projects will test new approaches to involving young fathers with their children and to helping mothers and fathers build stronger parenting partnerships, including considering marriage. Projects are underway in California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Strengthening the role of non-custodial fathers. HHS' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has awarded Responsible Fatherhood projects to test comprehensive approaches to encourage more responsible fathering by non-custodial parents. Each state project is different but all provide a range of needed services - such as those related to job search and training, access and visitation, social services or referral, case management and child support - to strengthen fathers' financial and emotional involvement with their children. Projects are underway in California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Maryland, Missouri, New Hampshire, Washington and Wisconsin.

Welfare reform and fatherhood. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 changed the nation's welfare system into one that requires work in exchange for time-limited assistance. The law provides for performance bonuses to reward states for achieving certain measurable goals, including promoting marriage and reducing out of wedlock pregnancies. ACF encourages states to use funding from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) to develop responsible fatherhood programs and has issued guidance with examples of such efforts. Today, almost half of all states use TANF funds for fatherhood programs.

Abstinence education. Becoming a father before one is married and ready for the responsibility can have severe negative consequences for a young father, the mother and the child. The welfare reform law enacted in 1996 created the Abstinence Only Education Program, which provides federal grants to states for abstinence-only education activities such as mentoring and counseling designed to promote abstinence from sexual activity until marriage. Many programs involve boys and young men in order to encourage behavior that promotes responsible fatherhood. In addition, HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provides grants to support the development and implementation of abstinence-only education programs for adolescents through various special projects.

Involving fathers in Early Head Start. ACF this year awarded grants to 21 Early Head Start projects in 17 states to develop new approaches to sustain fathers' involvement in their children's lives. These grants, which will total \$7.5 million over three years, are designed to provide strategies that other Early Head Start projects can use to involve fathers in their family-centered, community-based programs. The goal is to enhance the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of infants and toddlers. HHS also has worked with the National Head Start Association and its fatherhood partners to develop a father-friendly assessment tool to help programs create more inclusive programming for fathers.

Helping fathers in the criminal justice system. ACF funds grants to help parents involved with the criminal justice system provide more reliable and regular child support for their children. These grants support a number of state and local projects that provide services to non-custodial parents who are incarcerated, unemployed or underemployed, in order to increase employment and reintegrate them into their communities. Projects are underway in Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Washington and the District of Columbia.

Fathers Matter! As part of the joint Fathers Matter! campaign, HHS and the Department of Education are working to involve fathers in children's learning, including readiness to learn at school, at home, and in the community. The effort includes the development of a "Father's Involvement Tool Kit," a free CD-ROM filled with training materials, technical assistance and tips for educators and others who work with fathers. Information about ordering materials is available at <http://fatherhood.hhs.gov/fi-caring.htm>.

OTHER FATHERHOOD-RELATED HHS PROGRAMS

Promoting Safe and Stable Families. This program focuses on strengthening families, preventing abuse and protecting children. The program provides grants to states to keep children with their biological families, if safe and appropriate, or to place children with adoptive families. HHS' fiscal year 2002 budget request includes \$505 million for the program in fiscal year 2002, an increase of \$200 million, or 66 percent, above the current year's funding level.

Access and visitation programs. Over the past five years, HHS has awarded a total of \$50 million in block grants to states to promote access and visitation programs to increase non-custodial parents' involvement in their children's lives. The grants may be used to provide such services as mediation, counseling, education, developing parenting plans, visitation programs, and development of visitation and custody guidelines. Based on data reported by the states, the program serves nearly 50,000 parents each year, evenly divided between fathers and mothers.

Strategies to promote marriage. HHS supports efforts to identify successful approaches to strengthen and support families by encouraging marriage and improving relationships and parenting. For example, ACF has a project that will make recommendations for testing programs or policies to encourage and sustain healthy families. In addition, HHS is working to identify successful state strategies for achieving the welfare reform goals of promoting marriage and reducing out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

Parenting IS Prevention initiative. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Parenting IS Prevention initiative works to engage fathers and mothers about the role in preventing substance abuse among children. This campaign emphasizes the importance of a close and positive relationship between parents and children and includes tips for parents, training guides and other materials. More information is available at <http://www.parentingisprevention.org>

Healthy Start. The Healthy Start program works to reduce infant mortality rates in nearly 100 communities across the country. Through Healthy Start projects in Baltimore, Boston and Savannah, Ga., HRSA supports male mentoring and fatherhood initiatives to provide education and services to involve fathers. Hawaii provides similar services using state funds.

Reducing family violence. HHS plays a key part in the federal government's overall strategy to prevent and stop domestic violence, which often has serious consequences for children. These efforts include programs designed to reduce the violence committed by men through intervention and support services. More information can be found in the "Violence Against Women" fact sheet at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/facts>.

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Promising Practices

*[*According to the [Welfare Information Network](#) the Georgia Fatherhood Program is a promising practice]*

GEORGIA FATHERHOOD PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION

Project Purpose: The Georgia Fatherhood Program is an effort by the Georgia Office of Child Support Enforcement, to enable non-custodial low income parents to pay child support and play an active role in the lives of their children. Another goal of the program is to reduce Georgia's TANF and Medicaid costs through increased child support payments and parental responsibility.

Programs and/or Services: The Georgia Fatherhood Program focuses on providing low income non-custodial parents with the skills necessary to retain a job, as well as the ability to act as responsible parents. State of Georgia Child Support Enforcement agents refer the parents to the 14 district program coordinators throughout the state. The program coordinators then place the parents in specialized programs, which offer job skills training, job placement, the opportunity to earn a GED, counseling and fatherhood skills. The Fatherhood Program has a contract with the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education, to provide training and services at Georgia's technical institutions. Classes vary depending on the school and types of jobs available in the area. The curriculum includes classes in heating and air conditioning repair, commercial driver's license (CDL), welding, computer repair, automotive repair, carpentry and appliance repair. Participants are also required to take classes that teach life coping skills, such as how to interview for a job, retain employment, and manage finances. Finally, participants may attend classes that teach parenting skills, child development, and parent-child relationships.

Location: Job training and other services are offered at each of Georgia's 33 technical institutions and at 3 colleges with technical divisions. These technical institutions and colleges are located in each of Georgia's counties. The program prides itself on the fact that services are located within 50 miles of every person in Georgia.

Clientele: The Georgia Fatherhood Program seeks to serve all non-custodial parents who want to support their children, but do not have the financial means necessary to do so. Specifically, the program targets low income non-custodial fathers paying child support through the Office of Child Support Enforcement 1) who are unemployed, 2) who are employed with income of less than \$20,000 per year, 3) who have children receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and/or 4) who lack a high school diploma or GED. The program is also open to non-custodial mothers who meet the same criteria. The Office of Child Support is also engaged in a public relations campaign, that includes Atlanta Falcon football players. Showcasing the players on bill boards and posters throughout the state serves as a tool to strengthen the enforcement program.

Performance Measures: The contract that the Georgia Fatherhood Program has signed with the Georgia Technical Institution calls for the development of performance measures. The program is currently in the beginning stages of developing these measures. As of now, program success is gauged in terms of the following:

The number of non-custodial parents who have completed job skills training (Due to program expansion, 450 non-custodial parents completed

the training in 1997-1998, and another 3600 are expected to receive services during the current 1998-1999 contract year);

The number of non-custodial parents, who after completing the program are employed (80%);

The number of non-custodial parents, who after completing the program are paying child support (80%); and

The role that parents play in the lives of their children after participating in the program, compared to their roles prior to participating (Each parent completes a profile form regarding the relationship with his/her child(ren) before and after completing the program).

The program is in the process of building a database for this information, which is being collected across the state.

Contacts for Further Information

Frances A. Barry, State Fatherhood Manager, Georgia Fatherhood Program, Office of Child Support Enforcement, P.O. Box 2436, Albany, GA 31702, Ph: 912-430-4346, Fax: 912-430-4371

[Georgia Fatherhood Program](#) homepage

Information on other promising practices:

- National Governor's Association's report:

[*Promoting Responsible Fatherhood: An Update*](#)

This brief highlights initiatives to promote responsible fatherhood and includes short descriptions submitted by the nation's Governors of initiatives to promote responsible fatherhood that they admire.

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Web Resources

FEDERAL

[White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives](#)

Included in Pres. Bush's *Faith-Based Initiatives* are both *Fatherhood Initiatives* and *Marriage Initiatives*. This website contains links to Offices of Faith-Based Initiatives in 5 Cabinet agencies.

See report: [Rallying the Armies of Compassion](#) for Bush Administration's position on Faith-Based Initiatives, Fatherhood and Marriage.

Also see: [Pres. Bush Speaks at the Fourth National Summit on Fatherhood](#)

[Department of Health and Human Services](#)

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) supports programs and policies that reflect the critical role that both fathers and mothers play in strong and successful families and the well-being of children. Some programs reach out directly to fathers to promote responsible fatherhood and strengthen parenting skills. Other programs work to discourage young men from becoming fathers until they are married and ready for the responsibility. HHS also partners with states and community and faith-based organizations to promote responsible fatherhood in local communities nationwide. And HHS conducts extensive research into the role that responsible fathers play in ensuring the healthy development of children. More information about many HHS initiatives promoting fatherhood is available at <http://fatherhood.hhs.gov>.

[Administration for Children and Families](#)

ACF encourages states to use funding from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) to develop responsible fatherhood programs. Today, almost half of all states use TANF funds for fatherhood programs. ACF has also awarded grants to (1) 21 Early Head Start projects in 17 states to develop new approaches to sustain fathers' involvement in their children's lives, (2) help parents involved with the criminal justice system provide more reliable and regular child support for their children.

Related Federal Web Sites

- [Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement](#)
- [Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics](#) (FORUM)
- [Federal Office of Minority Health](#) in HRSA
- [Administration for Children & Families' Welfare Reform](#) Home Page
- [National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy](#)
- [NIH Report: Improving Children's Well-Being: Understanding, Nurturing Fatherhood](#)
- Assistant Secretary for Planning & Evaluation's pages on [Domestic Violence](#), [TANF/Welfare](#), and [Teen Parenting](#)
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)
- [Health Resources and Services Administration](#)
- [HUD Fatherhood Initiative](#)

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

[American Coalition for Fathers and Families](#)

National Hotline: 1-800-978-DADS

[Annie E. Casey Foundation](#)

For more than half a century, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has worked to build better futures for disadvantaged children and their families in the United States. Our mission is to foster public policies, improved human services, and community supports that effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. In pursuit of this goal, the Foundation makes grants, funds demonstrations, provides services, delivers technical assistance and disseminates data and analyses -- all aimed at helping states, cities, and neighborhoods do a better, more cost-effective job of supporting children and

families. Our investments in each of these areas are evaluated against clear goals and measured by results, performance outcomes, and return on investment.

See: [Connecting Fathers and Families](#) for description of Foundation's investment in Fatherhood

CONTACT: The Annie E. Casey Foundation
701 St. Paul St. Baltimore, MD 21202
ph: 410-547-6600 fax: 410-547-6624 e-mail: webmail@aecf.org

[Center for Fathers, Families and Public Policy](#)

The Center on Fathers, Families, and Public Policy (CFFPP) is a nationally-focused public policy organization conducting policy research, technical assistance, training, litigation and public education in order to focus attention on the barriers faced by never-married, low-income fathers and their families.

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[Child Trends](#)

Child Trends is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization dedicated to studying children, youth and families through research, data collection, and data analyses.

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth](#)

A network of over 175 community foundations in communities across the United States dedicated to securing improved conditions for children, youth and families. Launched a decade ago with support from the Rockefeller Foundation, CCFY is now supported by more than a dozen national foundations.

See report: [Father Matter 2001: What Community Foundations Can Do](#)

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[Father-to-Father/FatherNet](#)

A non-partisan, non-political, non-governmental means to promote effective fatherhood. Our efforts are aimed at strengthening the partnership between men and women in the role of parents, as well as the bond between father and child. We are committed to the belief that fathers of any social or economic background can be helpful to each other in the difficult but essential task of raising their children.

See: [Community Strategy Guide](#)

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[Fatherhood Project/Families and Work Institute](#)

A national research and education project that is examining the future of fatherhood and developing ways to support men's involvement in child rearing. Its books, films, consultation, seminars, and training all present practical strategies to support fathers and mothers in their parenting roles. The Fatherhood Project[®] is the longest-running national initiative on fatherhood--founded in 1981 at the Bank Street College of Education in New York City by Dr. James A. Levine, and relocated in 1989 to the Families and Work Institute. In 1992, Ed Pitt, formerly director of health and social welfare programs at the National Urban League, joined the Project as Associate Director.

See: numerous [publications and films](#) available for purchase

CONTACT : jlevine@familiesandwork.org

[National Center on Fathers and Families](#)

Established in 1994 at the Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania with core support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. An interdisciplinary policy research center, NCOFF is dedicated to research and practice that expands the knowledge base on father involvement and family development, and that informs policy designed to improve the well-being of children.

See: [Fathering Programs Database](#)

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[The Institute for Responsible Fatherhood & Family Revitalization](#)

Founded in 1982 in Cleveland, Ohio, the Institute For Responsible Fatherhood and Family Revitalization is the oldest and largest multi-site fatherhood non-profit in the United States, dedicated to supporting fathers to become actively engaged in the lives of their children, thereby leading to a loving, nurturing, supportive, relationship.

CONTACT: 1-800-7-FATHER

[National Center for Children in Poverty](#)

NCCP's mission is to identify and promote strategies that prevent child poverty in the United States and that improve the lives of low-income children and their families.

See report: [Map and Track: State Initiatives to Encourage Responsible Fatherhood, 1999 Edition](#)

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[National Center for Fathering](#)

The mission of the National Center for Fathering is to inspire and equip men to be better fathers. In response to a dramatic trend towards fatherlessness in America, the Center was founded in 1990 by Dr. Ken Canfield to conduct research on fathers and fathering, and to develop practical resources to prepare dads for nearly every fathering situation.

See program description: [Community Initiatives to Promote Responsible Fatherhood](#)

See: [Life Course of Fathering Curricula](#)

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[The Urban Fathering Project](#)

The Urban Fathering Project (UFP) is a Division of the [National Center for Fathering](#). Our urban communities are in need of a fathering revolution. This revolution needs to bring about changes in the trend of father absence and replace it with an new trend of positive, actively involved fathers.

[National Fatherhood Initiative](#)

We serve as a catalyst for engaging America in a public and forthright discussion about the necessity of reversing these trends. NFI encourages and supports family and father-friendly policies, develops national public education campaigns to highlight the importance of fathers in the lives of their children, provides motivation for national and local coalition-building, and provides information to individual men to help them be better fathers.

See quarterly newsletter: [Fatherhood Today](#)

See also: [Father Facts, 4th ed.](#) Father Facts is an easy-to-read, comprehensive review of research and statistics on fatherhood and family trends.

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families, Inc.](#)

The national individual membership organization whose mission is to build the profession of practitioners working to increase the responsible involvement of fathers in the lives of their children. NPNFF's programs and services are designed to foster communication, promote professionalism, and enhance collaboration among individuals working with fathers and fragile families. NPNFF seeks to strengthen practitioners in their day-to-day work with fathers and fragile families.

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[Family and Corrections Network](#)

Family and Corrections Network is for and about families of offenders. We offer information, training and technical assistance on children of prisoners, parenting programs for prisoners, prison visiting, incarcerated fathers and mothers, hospitality programs, keeping in touch, returning to the community, the impact of the justice system on families, and prison marriage.

See: [North American Conference on Fathers Behind Bars and on the Street](#)

See also: [Q&A page](#) for information/facts about incarcerated fathers

[Incarcerated Fathers Library](#)

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[National Fathers' Network](#)

The Fathers Network provides up-to-date information and resources for fathers, family members, and care providers. Here you will find current news, press releases, and timely articles. Also check out the Events Calendar for upcoming conferences and seminars, all designed to enhance your knowledge about the joys and challenges of children with special needs.

See: [General Information Page](#)

[*No contacts listed]

[The Ford Foundation](#)

The Ford Foundation is a resource for innovative people and institutions worldwide. Our goals are to: Strengthen democratic values, Reduce poverty and injustice, Promote international cooperation, and Advance human achievement.

See report: [Bringing Fathers Back into the Fold](#) – discussion of the Foundation's initiative—a coordinated set of grants—called Strengthening Fragile Families (SFFI).

The Foundation has devoted nearly \$14.5 million to Fragile Families since 1994.

The Foundation's *Partners for Fragile Families* are: National Center for Nonprofit Planning and Community Leadership, National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families, Center for Fathers, Family and Public Policy, The Urban Institute, National Center on Fathers and Families, Princeton University, Columbia University, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Labor.

[National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute](#)

The overall goal of the Institute is to address the multifaceted needs of the Latino males as it relates to their positive involvement in their families and community. Through research, training and direct service, the institute will look at the development of fathers as active positive partners in nurturing, guidance, and education of their children; while at

the same time, addressing the very painful aspects of child abuse, domestic violence, gang violence, school failure, illiteracy, teen pregnancy and other related issues.

Contact: tellojt@nlffi.org

[Young Dads/MELD](#)

Meld offers educational and support services for parents, trains family service providers to apply best practices in their work with families, and publishes a broad range of resource materials for parents and the people who work with them. These services and resources help parents set goals and make decisions for their education, work and family life that increase their self-confidence, self-sufficiency and ability to successfully manage a family.

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[National Partnership for Women and Families](#)

The National Partnership for Women & Families is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that uses public education and advocacy to promote fairness in the workplace, quality health care, and policies that help women and men meet the dual demands of work and family.

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina](#)

The Foundation has committed to a multi-year, \$6 million effort to support community programs that strengthen fatherhood and the role of fathers in the family. This Fatherhood Initiative, Reducing Poverty Through Father Engagement, is designed to reduce poverty by re-engaging absent fathers in the lives of their children.

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

**The following organizations have issued statements in opposition of fatherhood initiatives:*

[NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund](#)

Since 1970, the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund continues to be at the center of every major social and economic justice concern on the women's rights agenda, defining the issues and bringing them to public attention. NOW Legal Defense pursues equality for women and girls in the workplace, the schools, the family and the courts, through litigation, education, and public information programs.

See statement: [Marriage and family initiatives: Are they effective?](#)

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[National Gay and Lesbian Task Force](#)

NGLTF is the national progressive organization working for the civil rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, with the vision and commitment to building a powerful political movement.

Other Web Resources:

- [WIN Fatherhood/Family Formation Page](#) (Welfare Information Network)
- [Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study](#) (Princeton University)
- [National Head Start Association Fatherhood Initiative](#)