

## **Building Assets for Fathers and Families**

The Office of Child Support has teamed up with financial service providers in Hamilton and Cuyahoga counties to provide an innovative new program to help non-custodial parents not just get by but get ahead.

**Building Assets for Fathers and Families (BAFF)** provides workshops and free one-on-one coaching that teaches noncustodial parents how to create a budget, repair their credit and save money. Some parents may even be eligible for a money-matching savings account with a 2:1 match. Non-custodial parents who have a child support order in Cuyahoga or Hamilton counties may be eligible to participate in this free pilot program.

Ohio is one of seven states selected to take part in this new federally funded program. Helping parents who pay child support build financial strength is part of the new direction of the Office of Child Support Enforcement. Because many noncustodial parents are dads, Child Support is partnering with fatherhood programs to help identify fathers who may be eligible for the BAFF program.

As many fatherhood practitioners know, sometimes fathers labeled as “deadbeat dads” are really “dead-broke dads”. Many dads who fall behind in child support really care about their kids and are involved in their children’s lives. They just need help making ends meet. The BAFF program will give these parents the support they need in the short term so that they can support their children for the long term.

Services the BAFF program provides include:

- One-on-one financial coaching
- Financial education classes
- Help developing a personal financial plan
- Help managing credit card debt
- Free tax preparation
- Credit score review and advice on how to improve it
- Access to traditional banking services
- Review of child support order for possible modification or debt forgiveness
- Help finding employment

The pilot program is currently available in two Ohio counties but if it is successful, the Office of Child Support hopes to offer it around the state. By providing financial education and services to low-income non-custodial parents who pay child support, the Office of Child Support wants to help families achieve financial stability

If you know noncustodial dads who pay child support in Cuyahoga or Hamilton County and they want to start building a better future for themselves and their kids, have them contact:

### **In Cuyahoga County**

#### **Cuyahoga County Child Support Enforcement Agency**

1640 Superior Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
Attn: Melissa Buckingham  
**(216) 698-2814**

#### **Wealth Education Collaboration Opportunity Fund (WECO)**

3209 Chester Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
Attn: Beverly Davis  
**(216)370-5630**

[www.wecofund.com](http://www.wecofund.com)

### **In Hamilton County**

#### **Hamilton County Job and Family Services**

Child Support  
222 East Central Parkway  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
Attn: Angela Storms  
**(513) 946-1684**

#### **SMARTMONEY Community Services**

19 West Elder Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
Attn: Michelle Abernathy  
**(513) 241-7266 ext. 109**

[www.Smart-Money.org](http://www.Smart-Money.org)