



Commission on
Fatherhood

Report to the Community, January 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood is to enhance the well-being of Ohio's children by increasing and promoting involved, nurturing and responsible fatherhood.

Operation

- Ohio Commission on Fatherhood established in 1999 and codified in Section 5101.34, et seq. of the Ohio Revised Code.
- Current Executive Director, Tracy Robinson, hired in July 2008.
- Since 2008, all 20 commissioners appointed and an annual meeting calendar established with quorums achieved at all OCF meetings.

Funding

- OCF budget is 100% Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding. OCF does not receive any General Revenue Funds from the state budget.
- OCF distributes over 90% of its budget to Ohio's communities through grants.
- In 2009, OCF awarded 10 grants, \$1.8 million in total. Served over 4,000 fathers which positively impacted over 10,000 children.
- In 2010, OCF budget decreased 40% but still awarded 9 grants, \$1.44 million in total. Served over 5,000 fathers so far, which positively impacted over 12,500 children.
- From 2009-2010, OCF grantees served over 9,000 fathers and families, potentially benefiting over 22,500 children.

Training Sessions

- OCF sponsors and conducts training sessions to build organizations' capacity to serve fathers and families.
- Executive Director invited to present at national conferences at Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. and International Fatherhood Conference in New Orleans, LA, with expenses paid by the sponsors.
- Executive Director developed and has presented a training session entitled, "Engaging the Non-Resident Father" to child welfare workers at five Ohio Regional Training Centers throughout the state.

Outreach

- OCF outreach occurs in person and via printed and electronic media.
- OCF website launched in 2009 and OCF e-newsletter sent to over 2,000 individuals and organizations.
- Since June 2010, Executive Director has attended and presented at over 30 community events throughout Ohio.

Policy and Legislation

- OCF makes legislative and policy recommendations to promote responsible fatherhood to the Ohio General Assembly, state agencies and the federal government.
- OCF legislative subcommittee is comprised of the state legislator/commissioners and commissioners with specific policy expertise to discuss and analyze Ohio bills.
- OCF staff meets regularly with legislators to brief them on the work of the Commission and pending bills that impact fathers and families.
- OCF staff meets with Ohio Congressional delegation and Federal Health and Human Services personnel about federal legislation, funding, and policy for responsible fatherhood programming.

Collaborations and Partnerships

OCF Executive Director is a member of several state agency work groups and task forces, including:

- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Program Improvement Plan
- Ohio Department of Health Infant Mortality Task Force
- Ohio Family and Children First Family Engagement
- Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives Advisory Board
- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections' Justice Reinvestment Initiative
- Ohio State Treasurer's Office Fiscally Fit Fathers Conference Planning Committee

Office of Child Support

OCF has built on-going collaborations with the Ohio Office of Child Support including

- Co-sponsored the 2010 Ohio CSEA Directors Conference which featured Vicki Turetsky, U.S. Commissioner for the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement.
- Requiring all OCF grantees to collaborate with their local child support office
- Worked with the state's Office of Child Support on a successful grant application for \$650, 000 in federal funding.
- A member of state's Office of Child Support is an OCF commissioner.
- Executive Director testified at the Child Support Guideline Commission hearings.