



# Commission on Fatherhood

## **OHIO COUNTY FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE**

While the crisis of father absence is national, solutions must be found and implemented at the local level, one community at a time. Moreover, in this time of budget shortfalls and rising needs, local leaders must build collaborations and coordinate services. With this in mind, in 2011 the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood launched the first Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative. To date, twenty counties have participated in the project.

### ***What are the goals of the Initiative?***

1. Raise awareness of the importance of father involvement for children, families and communities
2. Make family-serving agencies more father-inclusive
3. Remove barriers to father involvement
4. Fund new or continuing fatherhood programs

### ***Who provides the training?***

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood provides the training with technical assistance and coaching provided by Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families.

### ***How long does the training take?***

Training takes place over six to eight months with webinars, workshops and technical assistance.

### ***What do counties receive?***

- Training on how to conduct a Needs and Assets Assessment in their communities
- Facilitation of a Community Conversation about Fatherhood
- Assistance on how to implement a Community Action Plan on Fatherhood
- Guidance on how to identify and apply for sustaining funding for County Fatherhood Initiative
- \$10,000 seed grant to begin or continue fatherhood programs in your county

### ***How much does the training cost?***

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood provides the training at no cost to the counties. In fact, counties participating in the initiative receive a one-time \$10,000 seed grant to begin or continue fatherhood programs in their county. The funds are dispersed to a participating county agency at the end of the training.

### ***Who participates in the training?***

All members of the community participate in the training. To begin the process, each county identifies their County Leadership Team which includes:

1. County Commissioner or State Representative;
2. Juvenile or Domestic Relations Court Judge;
3. Director of Child Support;
4. Director of Children Services;
5. Father involved in your community; and
6. Leader of a local faith-based entity or business

By working together, counties can promote responsible fatherhood and create long term solutions to the father absence crisis, one family at a time. Our hope is that eventually leaders from all 88 Ohio counties will participate in this training and launch successful County Fatherhood Initiatives in every county in the state.