



The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

What is the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood?

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood is part of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. It seeks to strengthen vulnerable Ohio families by funding community-based programs that serve low-income fathers.

Many of the fathers served by commission-funded programs were raised in father-absent homes and, therefore, lack experience in what it means to be a committed, involved and responsible father. Funded fatherhood programs help fathers and families improve **economic stability** when they help fathers prepare for, find and retain employment. They foster **responsible parenting** through skills-based classes and individualized mentoring. They promote **healthy relationships** through conflict resolution and communications skills training.

Our Mission

Our mission is to enhance the well-being of Ohio's children by providing opportunities for fathers to become better parents, partners and providers.





Strengthening Ohio Fathers

What does the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood do?

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood funds fatherhood programs throughout the state, makes policy recommendations regarding fathers, engages the community and trains professionals. This allows it to strategically promote father engagement at all levels.

Funded Programs

The commission funds fatherhood programs that demonstrate innovative and effective approaches to (1) building the parenting skills of fathers, (2) providing employment-related services to low-income, noncustodial fathers, (3) preventing premature fatherhood, (4) providing services to fathers who are inmates or who have just been released from state or federal correctional facilities or other detention facilities, (5) reconciling fathers with their families, and (6) increasing public awareness of the critical role that fathers play.

Develop Policy Recommendations

The commission makes law and policy recommendations to the Ohio state legislature, state agencies and the federal government to promote responsible fatherhood. The commission supports government in its efforts to make it easier for fathers to be involved in their children's lives.

Engage the Community

The commission staff attends many fatherhood-related programs, conferences, symposiums and other forums in Ohio to increase public awareness of the central role fathers play in their children's lives. Many Ohio communities and organizations plan regular fatherhood-related programs and events. We support their efforts to raise awareness of the father-absence problem.

Train Professionals

The commission offers workshops to build organizations' capacity to serve fathers and families. It is dedicated to supporting and empowering families and communities through teaching and organizational development. The workshops increase knowledge and improve participants' attitudes about fathering.

Who serves on the Commission?

Legislators

- 2 Ohio Senators
- 4 Ohio House Representatives

Directors of State Agencies

- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
- Ohio Department of Youth Services
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Education

Citizens, Governor and Court

- Governor or designee
- Five members of the public appointed by the Governor
- Member of Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet
- Representative appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court