OHIO COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD

SFY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Letter from the Executive Director

In my nearly decade-long work with the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, I have never been more honored and proud to serve alongside our local, state, and federal partners in fatherhood. COVID-19 presented historic, unprecedented challenges in 2020, and fatherhood programming was no exception. At a time when Ohio’s vulnerable fathers needed services the most, Ohio’s fatherhood practitioners successfully pivoted to offer creative solutions at all levels of programing.

Ohio and the commission continue to be a national leader in promoting programs that help fathers become better parents, partners, and providers. Housed within the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood strengthens vulnerable families by funding programs that build fathers’ parenting skills, prevent premature fatherhood, reconcile fathers with their families, increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play, and provide employment-related services for low-income, non-custodial fathers.

Decades of research show that children with fathers who are present in their lives have better cognitive outcomes, self-esteem, academic achievement, and economic stability. They have healthier development as children, are more empathetic, and are less likely to have problems with drugs and alcohol as teenagers. Given this profound and wide-ranging impact, dads really are superheroes in their children’s lives – and this annual report reflects that.

The commission devotes a large percentage of its budget to fund community-based and nonprofit fatherhood programs throughout the state. We require all of our grantees to use an online case management system called “Efforts to Outcomes.” Programs enter all the data related to their services directly and immediately, increasing both transparency and accountability and eliminating the need for paper files. Everyone with access to the system can view data in real time. They also can run performance reports and adjust strategies, as needed. Due to COVID-19, funded programs were provided an opportunity to work with fathers virtually and to complete required paperwork electronically.

We hope that you enjoy reading the results of the data-collection efforts in the pages ahead. We are providing this report in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5101.342, which requires the commission and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to prepare a report each year that identifies resources available to fund fatherhood-related programs, explores the creation of fatherhood initiatives, and describes the commission’s expectations and performance measurement methods.

Of course, you can learn more by visiting fatherhood.ohio.gov and/or following us on Facebook or Twitter. Thank you for sharing our interest in strengthening Ohio’s families.

Kimberly A. Dent
Executive Director
Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
What is the Importance of Fatherhood Involvement?
All children deserve to have two responsible, healthy parents involved in their lives. For many children, father absence is the sad reality. In Ohio and across the country, the number of children born to unmarried parents has steadily increased. In Ohio, 28% of children live in female-headed households with no father present, compared to 23% nationally¹.

Children growing up in single-parent families typically do not have the same economic or human resources available as those growing up in two-parent families. Compared with children in married-couple families, father absence places children at greater risk for alcohol and substance abuse, child abuse, criminal behavior, lower educational success, emotional and behavioral problems, poverty, suicide, and teen pregnancy². Children make up 22% of Ohio’s population and all of its future.

What is the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)?
The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF) seeks to improve the well-being of Ohio’s children by helping fathers become better parents, partners, and providers. Commissioners include the directors of state agencies, bipartisan members of the Ohio House and Senate, representatives from the Ohio Supreme Court, and citizens chosen because of their knowledge of fatherhood issues. As part of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the commission strengthens vulnerable families by funding programs that serve low-income fathers.

This state fiscal year 2020 annual report provides a summary of organizations funded, fathers served, and program outcomes for the time period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. It is meant to be read in conjunction with Fatherhood programs: factors associated with retention, completion, and outcomes, the final report compiled by an Ohio University research team³ after conducting an extensive evaluation of Ohio Commission on Fatherhood funded programs for state fiscal year 2020. To view this report, visit frpn.org.

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood meetings are held five times a year and are open to the public. For more information, visit fatherhood.ohio.gov.

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¹U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey
²Father Facts, 8th edition
What is Ohio Commission on Fatherhood’s Purpose?

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, and they promote healthy relationships through conflict resolution and communications skills training.

In addition to funding fatherhood programs throughout the state, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood makes policy recommendations regarding fathers, engages the community, and trains county leaders in how to mobilize their community to promote responsible fatherhood. This framework allows the commission to strategically promote fatherhood engagement on all levels.

Who are Our Grantees?

In state fiscal year 2020, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood funded seven community-based nonprofit fatherhood programs throughout Ohio. All grantees were required to have staff dedicated to providing the following services:

- Individualized services to remove barriers to father involvement;
- Fatherhood classes using an evidence-based curriculum;
- Help preparing for, finding, and keeping a job; and
- Data collection using the web-based Efforts to Outcomes case management tool.

**Action for Children** provides assistance with parenting and co-parenting skills, paternity establishment, parenting time and child support, employment services, and other free resources to help fathers in Delaware, Franklin, Licking, Marion, and Union counties build relationship with their children.

**Early Childhood Resource Center** provides fathers in Stark and Summit counties with fatherhood facilitation classes, case management and employment assistance.

**Forever Dads** provides fathers in Muskingum, Perry, Guernsey, and Noble counties with fatherhood coaching, parenting programming, employment training, community service opportunities, and other services.

**Passages Ohio** and its partners for workforce development trainings, father and child retreats, family retreats, custody and visitation referrals, legal assistance, child support direction, and other services for fathers in Lorain and Portage counties.

**Starts Within Organization** provides fathers in Richland County with fatherhood facilitated classes, case management, and employment assistance.

**Talbert House** assists men in Butler, Hamilton, and Warren counties in their efforts to become responsible, committed, and nurturing fathers, through classes, coaching, fellowship support meetings, and legal, employment, and housing assistance.

**Williams Challenge Man2Man** provides fathers in Trumbull County with fatherhood facilitation classes, case management and employment assistance.

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“I learn to want things that will help to improve my parenting time with my kids.”

-Father comment from exit survey

“This program was a great chance to be a better man and father. This also helped me realize things I can do to improve as a man. I will return! I would like to help others like y’all helped me.”

-Father comment from exit survey

“I have learned healthy ways to show my son how a man nurtures his son.”

-Father comment from exit survey

“Getting employment, housing, and child support modification and even getting my child support arrears reduced or waived because I'm 20k behind and I have a fifth-degree felony on my record and I'm on felony probation for child support.”

-Father comment from exit survey
What are the Facts and Figures?

Table 1: Demonstration of to whom and how much funds were distributed for fatherhood programming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fatherhood Grantee</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action for Children</td>
<td>$130,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Resource Center</td>
<td>$130,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forever Dads</td>
<td>$130,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passages</td>
<td>$130,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starts Within Organization</td>
<td>$75,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talbert House</td>
<td>$130,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams Challenge Man2Man</td>
<td>$75,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$800,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Due to COVID-19, some activities and reimbursement were provided in SFY2021.

Where were the Fathers Served?

Table 2: Breakdown of how many fathers were served and by which grantee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fatherhood Grantee</th>
<th># of Fathers Served</th>
<th>% of Annual Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action for Children</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Resource Center</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>124%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forever Dads</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>102%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passages</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starts Within Organization</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>106%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talbert House</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>235%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams Challenge Man2Man</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,311</strong></td>
<td><strong>119%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence-Based Curriculum Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield County TeenWorks No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidding Ohio Pilot Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Practitioners’ Network for Fathers and Families (OPNFF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Virtual Fatherhood Summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsible Fatherhood Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnkey Dads2B Pilot Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Costs (salaries, printing, and communication)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“This program was very informative and opened my eyes to different ways to go about parenting.”

-Father comment from exit survey
What is the Demographic Profile of Fathers Served?

**Figure 3: Overview of the age distribution of the fathers served.**

Over 73% of the fathers served were between 25 and 44 years old. Fewer than 1% were under 18 or over 65.

**Figure 4: Race of fathers being served in Ohio Fatherhood Programming.**

According to U.S. Census data, Ohio’s African American community accounted for 13% of the state’s population in 2018. Yet, approximately 32% of the fathers served by commission grantees were black.

**Figure 5: Relationship status of the father at enrollment.**

38% of the fathers served were never married. This mirrors the percentage of children living in female-headed households with no father present. About 40% of those children lived in poverty in Ohio in 2017.

**Figure 6: Graphical representation of the relationship between the highest education degree attained by fathers served and Ohio’s poverty rate.**

For 44% of the fathers served, the highest education degree they attained was a high school diploma or equivalent. A quarter of the fathers served had no degree. There is a strong correlation between low degree attainment and poverty.
What is the Demographic Profile of Fathers Served?

Table 3: Fathers’ income in the past 30 days at enrollment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Number of Fathers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I did not earn any money</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $500</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500-$1,000</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,001-$2,000</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than $2,000</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I receive disability income</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The data reflects an overall increase in the average hourly wages compared to 2019 despite the COVID-19 Pandemic that negatively impacted the economy during the last five months of the State Fiscal Year.

Table 4: Father’s employment status at enrollment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Status</th>
<th>Full-time</th>
<th>Part-Time/Self-Employed</th>
<th>Temporary</th>
<th>Work Release/Work in Not Employed Prison</th>
<th>Participant Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sum</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Areas where fathers want help.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Help Needed</th>
<th>Number of Fathers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interested in participating in a fatherhood class</td>
<td>552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need help with child support</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need help seeing my child(ren)</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need help with employment</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expecting a child and need help preparing</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One of the top needs of fathers report when seeking services is help finding a job. Because of this high need, and because part of the commission’s mission is to help fathers provide for their families, all grantees are required to offer employment services. Here are the results of those efforts in 2020:

- Number of fathers placed into jobs: 135
- Number of fathers placed into full-time jobs: 111
- Average hours worked per week: 36.6
- Average hourly wage: $13.45

Although only 48% of fathers took the voluntary fatherhood programming exit survey, the following results reflect exceptional service by our grantees:

- The staff gave me the help I needed: 82%
- The staff did a good job: 90%
- I would recommend this program to others: 90%
- I learned information that I will apply in my life: 88%
- I have a better understanding of my rights as a father: 79%

How much Child Support is Paid by Participants?

Figure 7: Summary for all participants completing a commission-funded program.

- Amount Collected 3 Months Prior: $165,201
- Amount Collected During: $149,533
- Collections 3 Months After Graduating: $325,345

Figure 8: Summary by grantee for all participants completing a commission-funded program.
How much Child Support is Paid by Participants?

**Figure 9: Data about new payors (first time paying child support).**

Child support successes reported by fathers in SFY 2020:
- Child support orders reviewed: 45
- Child support orders modified: 34
- Child support arrears reduced or waived: 23
- Driver’s licenses reinstated: 37
- New parenting time orders: 68
- Total amount of first-time payments paid by participants: $259,135.

Child support collections continue to be a positive outcome for fatherhood programming. Overall, the amount of child support collected increased from 2019 despite the COVID-19 Pandemic that negatively impacted the economy during the last five months of the State Fiscal Year.

What Other Ohio Agencies are Collaborators?

The commission works closely with:
- The Ohio Departments of Health and Medicaid to continue to address high infant mortality rates in Ohio. Research shows that when fathers encourage breastfeeding, don’t smoke, and practice safe sleep habits with their babies, infant mortality rates decline.
- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services’ Office of Child Support on various policies and strategies to ensure that Ohio’s child support services foster father engagement and serve children’s best interests.
- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services’ Office of Families and Children on father engagement strategies for families involved in the children services system.
- The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on family engagement and child support strategies for incarcerated noncustodial parents. Ohio Commission on Fatherhood staff participate on family engagement councils and committees that support and facilitate ongoing connections between incarcerated adults and their families during incarceration.
- The Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to ensure that funded community programs work together to serve Ohio’s families and communities.
- The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and RecoveryOhio to address Ohio’s public health crisis linked to the drug and opioid epidemic. Funded Fatherhood programs continue to implement strategies to link fathers to essential community services that support fathers and families facing mental health and addiction challenges. OCF staff participate on various workgroups that collaborate in the best interest of eliminating this public health crisis.
- The Ohio State University’s Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Advisory Council to focus on student success and parent involvement. A father’s presence and his support of his child’s education leads to better academic and behavioral outcomes for his child. OCF is dedicated to continuing participation on this advisory council to incorporate strategies into the Whole Child Framework.

What Outcomes were Achieved?

**Figure 10: Pictorial depiction of a sample of fatherhood outcomes.**

Of the fathers served in SFY 2020 by commission-funded grantees, 572 completed exit surveys. They reported the following accomplishments:

- 414 Completed fatherhood classes (attended at least 80% of classes)
- 332 Improved communication with children
- 151 Increased time spent with children not living with them
- 71 Increased legal visitations with children not living with them
- 148 Improved communication with co-parent
- 120 Increased contact with children other than visitation
- 42 Obtained a high school diploma or equivalent degree or vocational certification
- 62 Completed an addiction treatment program
- 36 Enrolled in an anger management program
- 34 Obtained safe housing
- 6 Completed domestic abuse intervention program
MISSION: To enhance the well-being of Ohio’s children by providing opportunities for fathers to become better parents, partners, and providers.

To learn more, please visit fatherhood.ohio.gov.

Mike DeWine, Governor
State of Ohio

Kimberly Henderson,
Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.