

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 ever Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative.

What counties received:

- Training on how to conduct a Needs and Assets Assessment in their communities
- Planning for a Leadership Summit on Fatherhood
- Assistance on how to implement a Community Action Plan on Fatherhood
- Guidance in how to identify and apply for sustaining funding for your County Fatherhood Initiative.

Who provided the training:

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood provided technical assistance and contracted with the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) to provide **free training to all counties**.

When did the training occur?

The County Fatherhood Initiative began in January 2011 and continued the **training over the next six months** with webinars, workshops and technical assistance.

How much did the training cost?

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood provided the training at no cost to the counties. In fact, counties who successfully complete the training received a **one-time \$10,000 seed grant** to begin fatherhood programs in their county.

Who participated in the training?

Each county identified their **County Leadership Team** who agreed to take part in the training and consisted of:

1. County Commissioner or State Representative;
2. Family or Domestic Relations Judge;
3. Director of Child Support;
4. Director of Child Welfare; and
5. Leader of a local faith-based entity or business

Elected officials, judges and directors could assign a designee to represent them in the training but were asked to review and provide input into the planning process.

How does a county apply?

Submit the simple one page on-line form. Monica Mahoney from our office will contact you to confirm that your county has been selected to participate in the County Fatherhood Initiative. Please contact Monica at 614-752-1624 if you have additional questions.

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