



DIGITAL DIALOGUE

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Father Engagement: Addressing the Challenges



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Conversation
on Child Abuse
and Neglect*



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Information Memorandum: Integrating Approaches that Prioritize and Enhance Father Engagement

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ACF Administration for Children and Families	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration for Children and Families	
	1. Log No: ACF-ACF-IM-18-01	2. Issuance Date: October 17, 2018
	3. Originating Offices: Administration on Children, Youth and Families; Office of Child Support Enforcement; Office of Family Assistance; Office of Child Care; Office of Head Start	
	4. Key Words: Fatherhood; Father Engagement; Family Support; Family Responsibility; Child Well-Being; Strengthening Families; Child Support	

TO: State and Territory Human Service Commissioners, State, Tribal and Territorial Agencies Administering or Supervising the Administration of Title IV-E and IV-B of the Social Security Act, Indian Tribes and Indian Tribal Organizations, State Courts, and State and Tribal Court Improvement Programs. State and Territorial Agencies Administering or Supervising the Administration of other ACF programs including child support, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Head Start, Child Care, and other family and youth services.

SUBJECT: Integrating Approaches that Prioritize and Enhance Father Engagement

PURPOSE: The purpose of this information memorandum (IM) is to strongly encourage all human service agencies including child welfare agencies, courts, offices of child support enforcement, offices of public assistance, offices of child care, Head Start programs and family and youth services programs to work together across governments to jointly create and maintain an environment that prioritizes father engagement as a critical factor in strengthening families and adopt approaches to enhance paternal involvement in all family support and child welfare related programs.

INFORMATION

This IM emphasizes the importance of meaningful father engagement in all Administration for Children and Families (ACF) programs to better serve children and families. The memorandum highlights research findings that demonstrate the value of father involvement in the lives of children and families, and identifies promising practices to promote and sustain meaningful father engagement, regardless of a father's physical location or custodial participation. ACF and its offices speak in unison in strongly encouraging all agencies to work together to ensure that meaningful father engagement is a central aspect of the work done across family serving state and county agencies.

PURPOSE: [T]o strongly encourage all human service agencies...to work together across governments to jointly create and maintain an environment that prioritizes father engagement as a critical factor in strengthening families and adopt approaches to enhance paternal involvement in all family support and child welfare related programs.



**Fathers' Support Center
St. Louis**
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

- *Incorporated as a 501(c)3 December 10, 1997.*
- **Our mission...** *To foster healthy relationships by strengthening families and communities.*
- **Vision...** Every father is responsible and committed to a cohesive family relationship.

**Improving outcomes for children
is the focus of FSC.**

Client Demographics

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Direct Clients:	804
Median Age:	20-34 (346)
	35-54 (280)
African American:	87% (697)
Below Poverty Guidelines:	96% (774)
Family Formation Program:	480

Impact on participants

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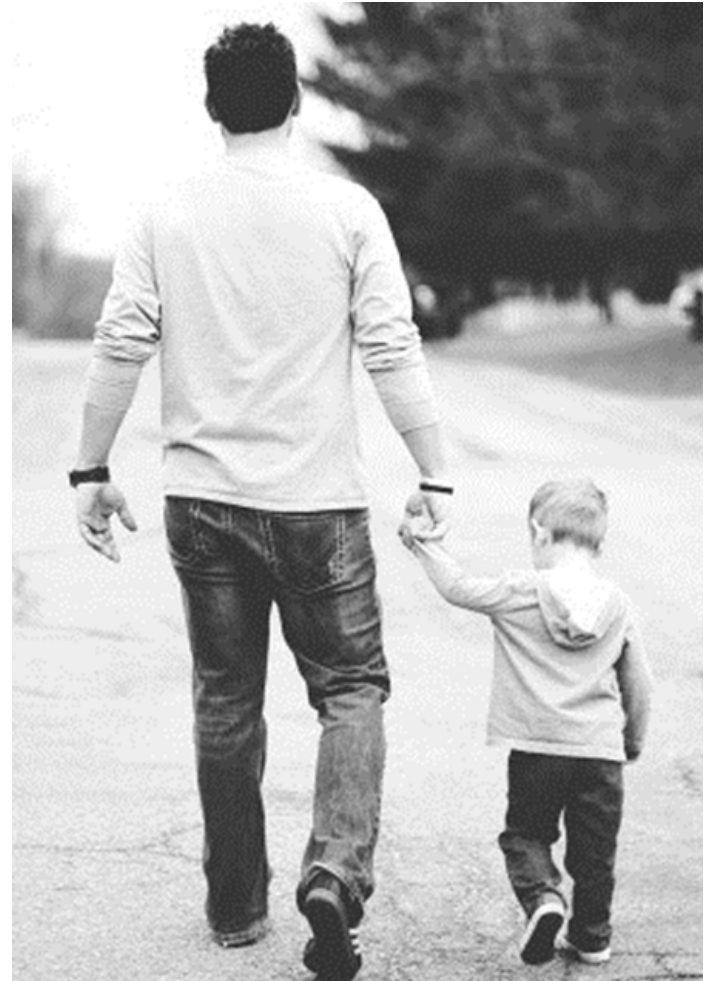
- Healthy Relationships with Family: 88%
- Positive Co-Parenting Skills w/Co-parents: 76%
- Clients Gain Employment Skills: 92%
- Clients Obtain Employment: 61%
- Clients Retain Employment 90 days: 92%



Practical Strategies for Dealing with Thorny Issues

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Parental substance use disorder



cantasd.acf.hhs.gov



Practical Strategies for Dealing with Thorny Issues

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Paternal Rights and Child Welfare





Practical Strategies for Dealing with Thorny Issues

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Culture Change



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- Child Welfare Information Gateway: [Engaging Fathers and Paternal Family Members](#)
- Engaging Fathers Podcast Series; Child Welfare Information Gateway: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/famcentered/engaging/fathers/>
- Integrating Approaches that Prioritize and Enhance Father Engagement; Federal Information Memorandum: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/acf-acf-im-18-01-integrating-approaches-that-prioritize-and-enhance-father-engagement>
- Father Engagement in Child Welfare; National Child Welfare Workforce Institute: [https://www.ncwwi.org/files/Father Engagement in Child Welfare Summary Information.pdf](https://www.ncwwi.org/files/Father_Engagement_in_Child_Welfare_Summary_Information.pdf)
- Finding Your Way: Guides for Fathers in Child Protection Cases; National Fatherhood Initiative: <https://www.fatherhood.org/findingyourway>
- Video on Father Family Support Center: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-V-0yoYiGys&feature=youtu.be>

Thank You & Next Steps

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- Download the handouts to learn more. Click on the files in the “Handouts” box on your screen.
- Do you have innovative ideas, questions or concerns about engaging fathers? Tell us about your work. Send an e-mail to **hello@CANTASD.org**

Upcoming:

February 26th, *What the Science Tells us About Building Resilience*

March 20th, *Are the Words "Toxic Stress" Toxic? Re-thinking the narrative about early life stress*



A photograph of a man and a young girl embracing outdoors. The man is on the left, wearing a brown sweater, and the girl is on the right, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a white bow in her hair. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is a soft-focus bokeh of green and yellow light. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

Discussion

- Please type questions into the chat box