

OHIO COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD SFY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



A Letter from ODJFS Director Cynthia Dungey



As part of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood strengthens vulnerable Ohio families by funding programs that serve low-income fathers. It does this by giving them tools to help them find and keep jobs, improve the economic stability of their families, learn how to be responsible parents, and have better relationships with their children. These skills are typically taught through a combination of mentoring and skill-based classes in such things as financial literacy, conflict resolution and communication.

Many of the fathers the commission helps grew up in father-absent homes, without the benefit of positive male role models showing through their daily actions what it means to be a good father. The commission seeks to break this cycle by helping to train a new generation of fathers in how to be engaged, responsible parents.

As this annual report shows, when fathers learn the skills they need to be responsible fathers:

- Our children are better off and better positioned to build their own strong families.
- Families are better off because of fathers' love, care, and emotional and financial support.
- Taxpayer dollars are saved, as families are more likely to be well-functioning and self-sufficient.

The return on investment for responsible fatherhood programs is immeasurable. Promoting father presence is much less costly than paying for the consequences of father absence and the result is a stronger Ohio for generations to come.

Read on to learn more about the commission's results for SFY 2017 and how it chooses effective programs so that Ohio's families are well-served.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia C. Dungey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia C. Dungey, Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

A Letter from OCF Executive Director Kimberly Dent



I'm proud to present the state fiscal year 2017 annual report for the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood. We've had a busy and productive year, funding eight community-based, nonprofit fatherhood programs located throughout the state and reaching more than 8,000 fathers.

Among other things, we launched the "New Beginnings for New Fathers" program in Franklin, Clark, Cuyahoga, Hamilton and Montgomery counties. The program, which is funded by a five-year \$10 million federal grant, is designed to help eligible low-income fathers become more effective and nurturing parents, improve their long-term economic stability, and build strong, lasting relationships with their children.

Research shows that children whose fathers are present in their lives have vastly improved outcomes. It also shows that when fathers encourage breastfeeding, don't smoke and practice safe sleep habits with their babies, infant mortality rates decline. For that reason, "New Beginnings for New Fathers" is expected to help reduce Ohio's infant mortality rate.

We also worked to reduce Ohio's infant mortality rate by funding a pilot program with the Columbus Urban League's Moms2B Program. The program provided weekly classes for expectant and new parents at four locations in Columbus' poorest neighborhoods. Instructors took a positive approach and surrounded pregnant and new moms and dads with the support, education and the resources they need to be better parents.

For the fourth year in a row, we funded opportunities for father/child events hosted by nonprofits and agencies in June, which Governor Kasich declared "Responsible Fatherhood Month." Celebrations were held throughout the state, in urban, suburban and rural areas. These fun family events helped spread the word about the importance of fathers staying engaged with their children.

I'm grateful for the passion and collaboration of our partners, and also of our commissioners, an exceptional and engaging group of advisors who bring unique perspectives, excellent ideas and an unwavering commitment to our mission. We also are fortunate to have an amazing staff who work tirelessly each day to improve the lives of Ohio's fathers and children.

You can learn more about our work in the pages ahead, as well as at fatherhood.ohio.gov. Thank you for your interest in the commission, and please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly A. Dent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimberly A. Dent, Executive Director
Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

This Report

This report summarizes the initiatives, pilot projects and the methodology used to measure the effectiveness of programs funded by the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF) in state fiscal year (SFY) 2017. It is submitted pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §5101.342, which requires OCF to prepare a report each year that:

- 1) Identifies resources available to fund fatherhood-related programs and explores the creation of initiatives to do the following:
 - a. Build the parenting skills of fathers;
 - b. Provide employment-related services for low-income, noncustodial fathers;
 - c. Prevent premature fatherhood;
 - d. Provide services to fathers who are inmates in or have just been released from imprisonment in a state correctional institution, or in any other detention facility, so that they are able to maintain or reestablish their relationships with their families;
 - e. Reconcile fathers with their families;
 - f. Increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play.
- 2) Describes the commission's expectations for the outcomes of fatherhood-related programs and initiatives and the methods the commission uses for conducting annual measures of those outcomes.

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Several states have fatherhood programs, but Ohio is the first state to have a statewide commission created by statute. Commissioners meet five times a year to discuss how Ohio can better serve low-income fathers and families. Some are directors of state agencies, some are members of the Ohio Supreme Court, the Ohio House of Representatives or the Ohio Senate, and some were chosen by Governor Kasich because of their knowledge of fatherhood issues.

“Fatherhood is our future. Having more men take an active role in their child’s life will not only benefit the child, but all of us. Better outcomes reduce the cost on society of making up for absent fathers.”

–Senator Bill Beagle, OCF Chairman

The Commission

Sen. Bill Beagle, Chairman
Susan Brown, Director
Kara Bertke-Wente, ODJFS Office of Family Assistance
Director Kacey Bullard, Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives
Rep. Nicholas Celebrezze
Cedric Collins, Ohio Department of Youth Services
Rep. Hearcel Craig
Mike Davis, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
William Dodson, Rhema Christian Center
Rep. Timothy Ginter
Chad Hibbs, Ohio Family & Children First
Joseph Hill, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Rep. Darrell Kick
Randy Leite, Ohio University
Scott Neely, Children's Hunger Alliance
Ann Ream, Summit County Children Services
John Silverman, Midland Atlantic Properties
Sen. Cecil Thomas
Socrates Tuch, Ohio Department of Health
Tarik White, Ohio Department of Education

OCF Staff

Kimberly Dent, Executive Director
Monica Mahoney, Program Administrator
Judy Strayer, Project Manager
Terena Arnold, Administrative Professional



(Left to right, seated) Hearcel Craig, Randy Leite, Susan Brown, Kimberly Dent, Kara Bertke-Wente, Ann Ream and Socrates Tuch

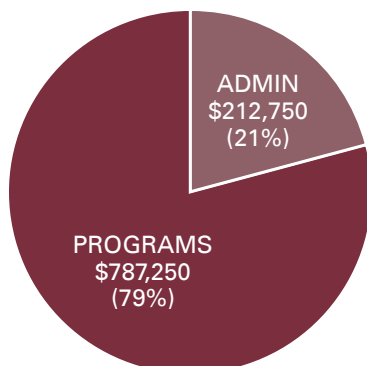
(Left to right, standing) Kacy Bullard, Timothy Ginter, Tarik White, Joseph Hill, Bill Beagle, Scott Neely, Cedric Collins and Chad Hibbs

Not Pictured: Nicholas Celebrezze, Mike Davis, William Dodson, Darrell Kick, John Silverman and Cecil Thomas.

Resources

OCF is part of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Office of Family Assistance. Since its inception, it has been funded entirely by the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Since 2010, OCF has awarded grants to fatherhood programs throughout Ohio and provided community-mobilization training and capacity-building grants to Ohio counties, allowing them to establish countywide fatherhood initiatives.

A portion of the OCF budget is dedicated to funding fatherhood programs that provide direct services to fathers. The target population is fathers who are low-income, non-married, and unemployed or underemployed. Many grew up in father-absent homes. Many have not completed high school. Many do not reside with the mothers of their children, have children by multiple partners, and pay or owe child support. Most often, they need services that increase their economic stability, foster responsible parenting skills and promote healthy relationships in their families.



SFY 2017 Commission on Fatherhood Financial Summary

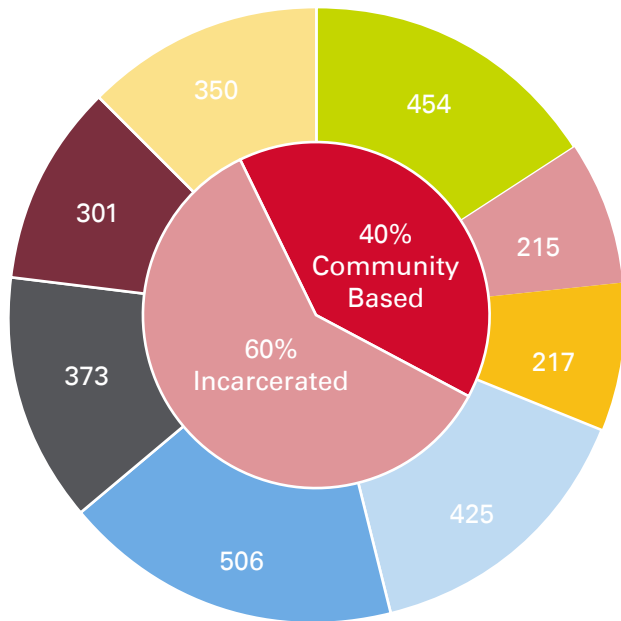
| Fatherhood Grantees | AMOUNT |
|---|---------------------|
| Action for Children | \$ 100,000 |
| Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron and Richland Counties (CACEHR) | \$ 40,000 |
| Centers for Families and Children | \$ 40,000 |
| ForeverDads | \$ 100,000 |
| Lima-Allen Council on Community Affairs | \$ 100,000 |
| Passages, Inc. | \$ 100,000 |
| Urban Light Ministries | \$ 100,000 |
| WSOS | \$ 100,000 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$ 680,000 |
| Responsible Fatherhood Month Grants | |
| CASA Board Volunteer Association | \$ 2,500 |
| Columbiana County Child Support Enforcement Agency | \$ 1,500 |
| Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland | \$ 2,500 |
| Eye of the Artist Foundation, Inc. | \$ 2,500 |
| ForeverDads | \$ 2,500 |
| Miami Valley Child Development Centers | \$ 2,500 |
| Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services | \$ 2,500 |
| National African American Male Wellness Walk | \$ 2,500 |
| Passages, Inc. Connecting Fathers and Sons | \$ 2,500 |
| United Returning Citizens | \$ 2,500 |
| West Ohio Community Action Partnership | \$ 2,500 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$ 26,500 |
| Pilot Projects | |
| Columbus Urban League and Moms2B | \$ 20,000 |
| Daddy's Tool Bag | \$ 8,750 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$ 28,750 |
| Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative | |
| Butler County | \$ 10,000 |
| Clinton County | \$ 10,000 |
| Delaware County | \$ 10,000 |
| Portage County | \$ 10,000 |
| Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers & Families | \$ 12,000 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$ 52,000 |
| Administrative Costs | \$ 218,125 |
| TOTAL (100% TANF Funded) | \$ 1,000,000 |

Grantees

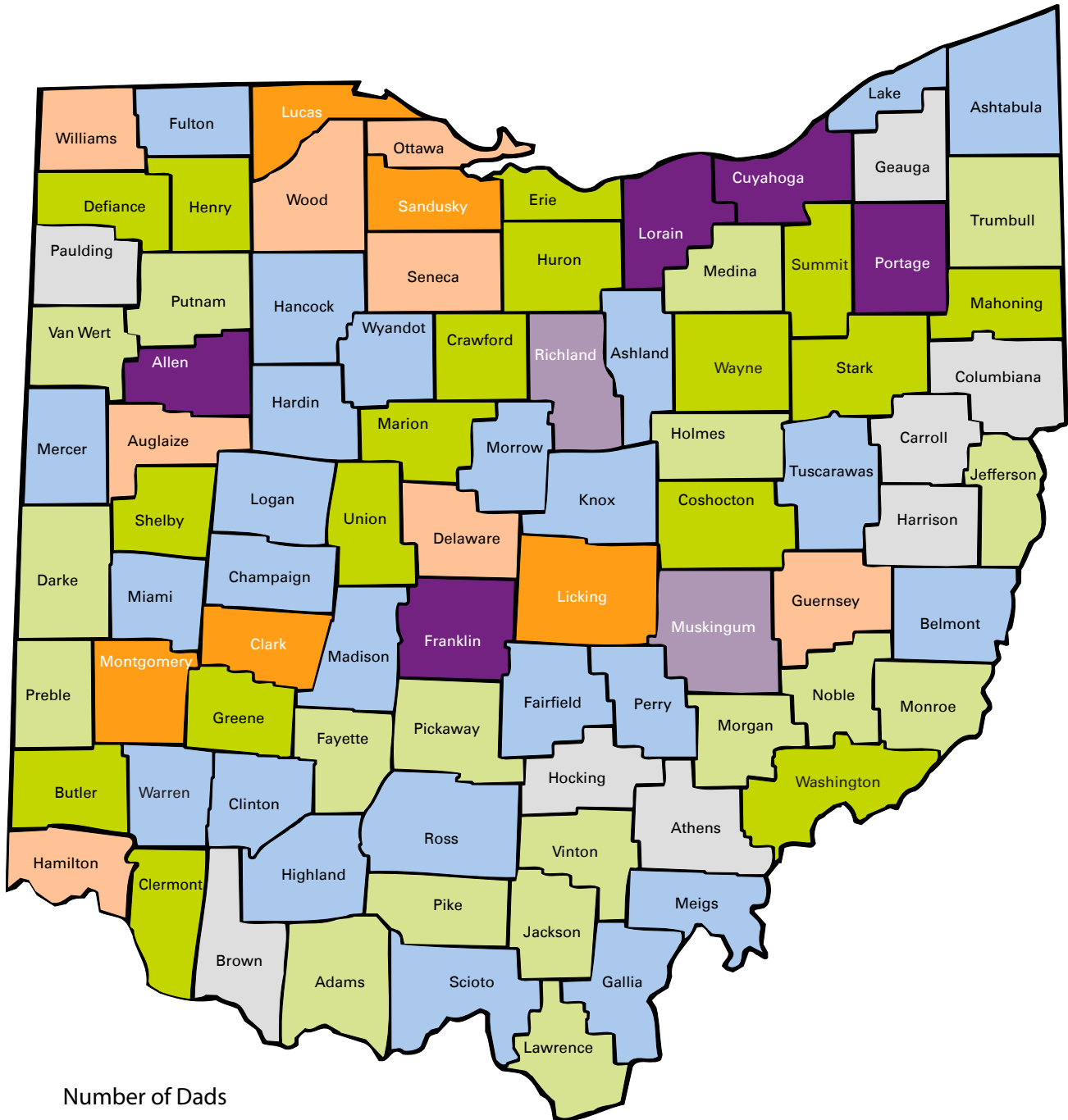
In SFY 2017, the commission funded eight community-based, nonprofit fatherhood programs located throughout the state. All are required to adhere to evidence-based fatherhood curriculums that align with the commission’s goals.

- **Action for Children (AFC)** – Delaware, Franklin, Licking and Marion Counties
- **Centers for Families and Children** – Cuyahoga County
- **Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron and Richland (CACEHR)** – Erie, Huron and Richland Counties
- **ForeverDads** – Guernsey, Muskingum, Noble and Perry Counties
- **Lima-Allen Council on Community Affairs** – Lima and Allen Counties
- **Passages** – Lorain and Portage Counties
- **WSOS** – Wood, Sandusky, Ottawa and Seneca Counties
- **Urban Light Ministries (ULM)** – Clark County

Together, they served 2,841 fathers:



Counties Served

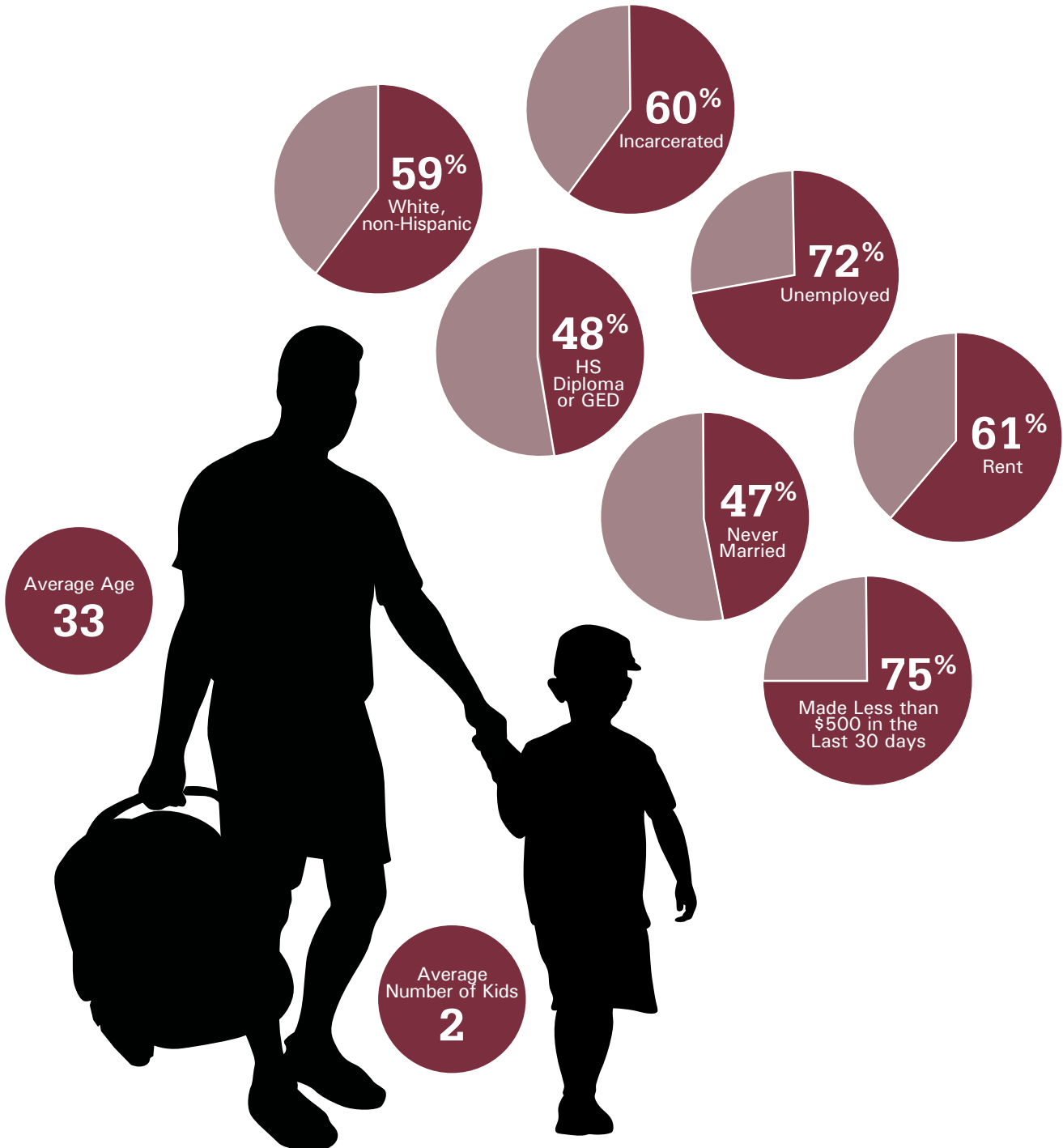


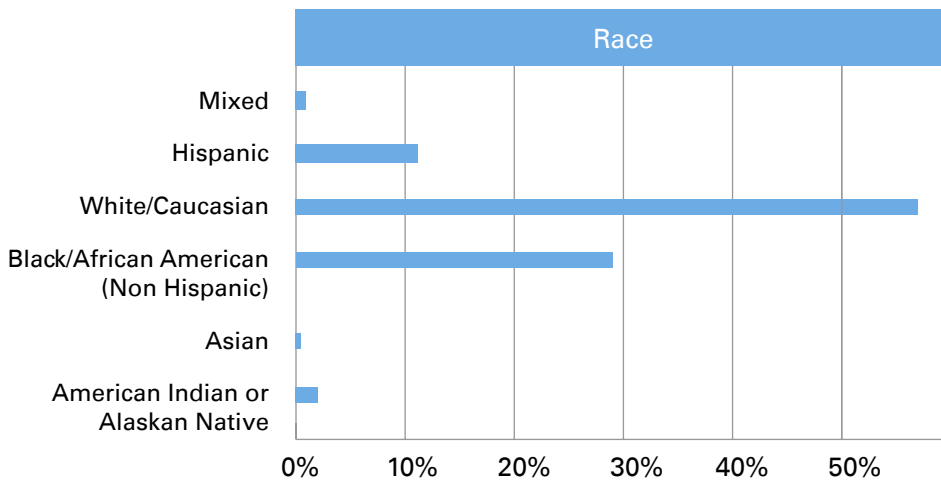
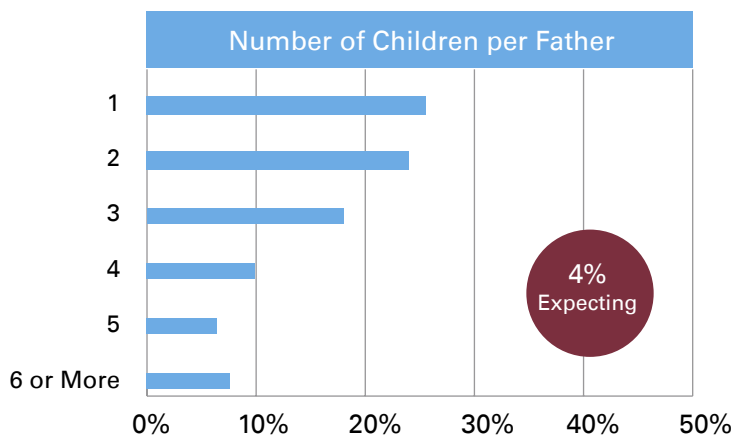
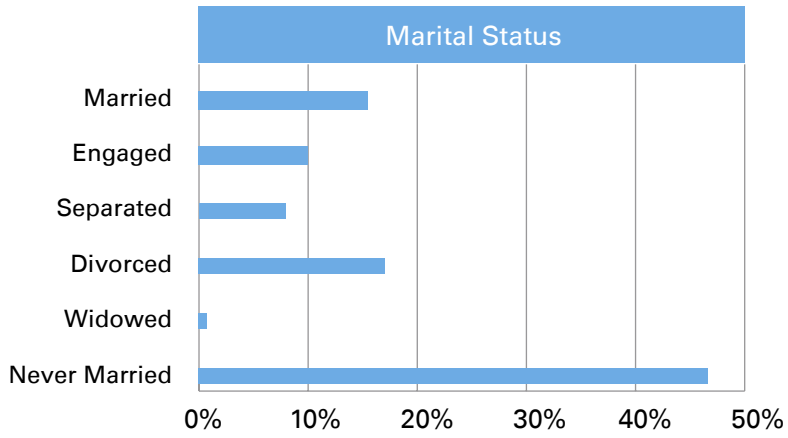
Number of Dads

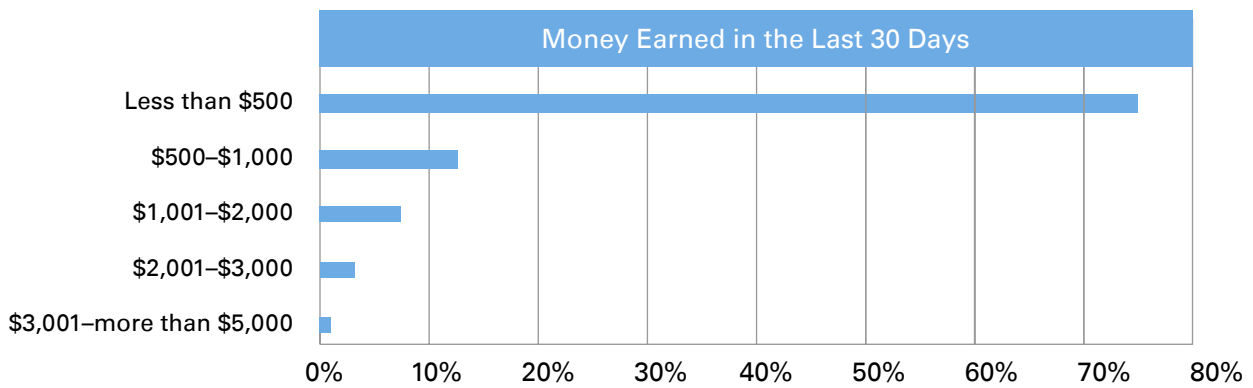
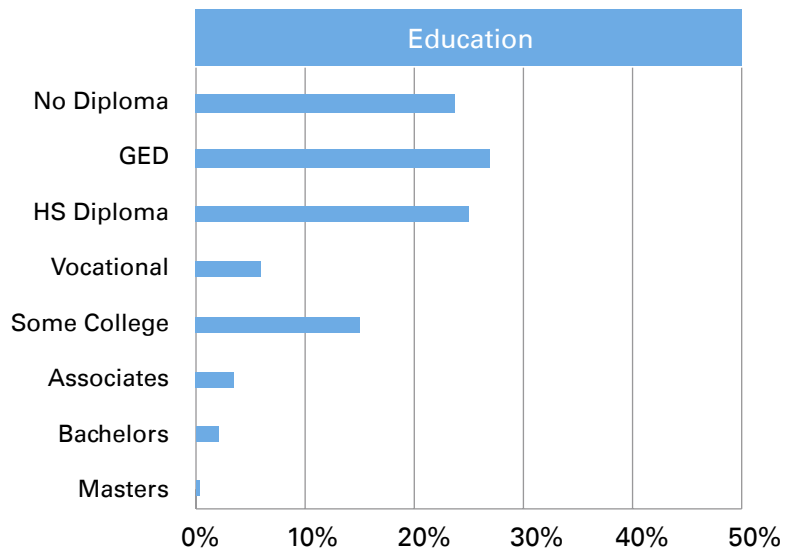
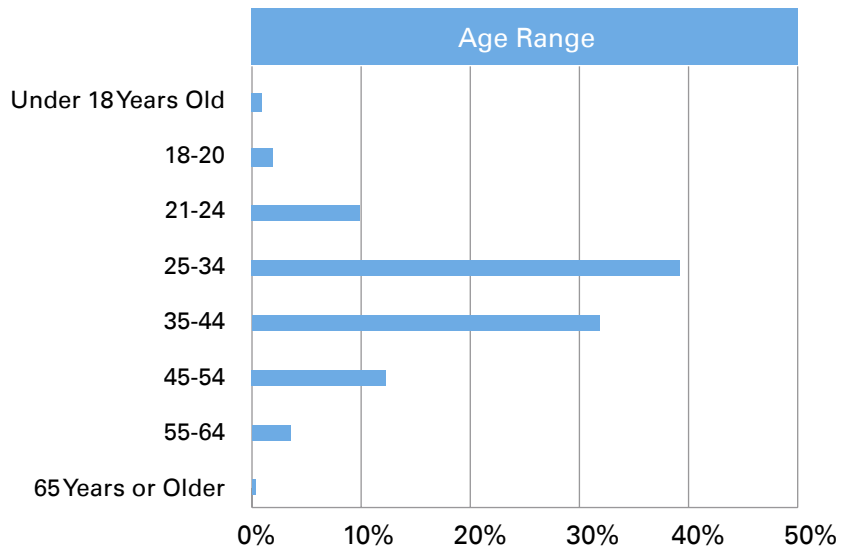
- 0
- 1-3
- 4-9
- 10-20
- 23-48
- 57-94
- 151-163
- 200-270

Fathers Served by Grantees

Before fathers receive services, they're asked to complete a survey asking such things as their marital status, education, income, number of children, race, age, where they live and what they would like help with. In SFY 2017, 60 percent of fathers surveyed said they did not have custody of their children. 54 percent reported having a child support order. The infographic below, and the charts on the following pages, present a more complete picture of the fathers served.







New Beginnings for New Fathers



In SFY 2017, OCF began implementing New Beginnings for New Fathers, a five-year project funded by a \$10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This program is operating in Franklin, Clark, Cuyahoga, Hamilton and Montgomery counties, with plans to expand it to the Circleville and Cuyahoga Hills juvenile correctional facilities in 2018.

New Beginnings for New Fathers offers job training, parenting classes, and healthy marriage and relationship education to new and expectant adult fathers with children under age 1 and fathers under age 25 with children of any age. The target population was selected based on substantial research showing that the months surrounding a child's birth are a window of opportunity during which fathers are most receptive to support and behavior change. Father involvement during this "magic moment" of pregnancy, childbirth and infancy can lead to improved maternal and infant health, increased father-child bonding and attachment, stronger co-parenting relationships, more nurturing fathers, and increased positive father involvement throughout the life of the child.

As of this report's publication:

- 230 fathers received services.
- The average age was 25. The youngest was 16; the oldest was 55.
- 80 percent of the fathers served were black, 11 percent were white, 3 percent were biracial, and 6 percent reported being another race
- 41 percent did not have a high school diploma, 20 percent had a high school diploma, and 17 percent had a GED.
- 82 percent were single; 6 percent were married, and 5 percent were divorced.
- 36 percent were expecting a child when they enrolled in the program.
- The average number of children was two.
- At the time of enrollment, 33 percent of the fathers were employed.
- During and with the help of the program, an 35 additional fathers found jobs.
- The average hourly wage was \$11.29.

Father Feedback

Here's what some of the participating fathers had to say about their experiences with OCF grantees' fatherhood programs:

For the first time, I was around a group of men who were experiencing problems within their own lives . . . these men, from all walks of life, shared a concern to better themselves for the sake of their children.

Before starting the class I thought, "What could they teach me that I hadn't already experienced?" Boy, was I off, way off. Without a doubt, the Father Factor class was the most important thing that I was missing in my experience as a father. I was taught how to deal with discipline, respect, even dealing with that co-parent you don't always see eye to eye with.

**-AARON,
ACTION FOR CHILDREN**



I took and completed "Creative Parenting" classes where I learned a lot about how to be a parent, and how to effectively manage and handle my emotions. I also learned to identify parenting styles . . . it helped me to look at my parenting style and to make adjustments so that I could be a better parent.

I was also linked to Passages, another fatherhood program, which linked me to a training program from Edwin's Culinary Institute . . . which helped me become employed at a five star restaurant, Ruth's Chris Steak House.

**-GRANT, CENTERS FOR
FAMILIES AND CHILDREN**

I am a 23 year old father of 4 and have missed a couple of years of my children's lives due to bad decision making. I was hesitant about the [CACEHR fatherhood] program at first but have gained some resources to put in my "tool belt" that has helped me gain an understanding of being a man and a father. I am proud to say I see my children every day once I get off work. CACEHR has also helped me gain employment and referred me to a successful treatment program to deal with my alcoholism head on. They instilled in me the importance of being a working father and not just a hustling man. I am grateful to the fatherhood program and CACEHR for helping me open my eyes and mind to being a better person overall.

-ERIC, CACEHR

They helped me with employment and even with transportation to and from work. While I was in prison my son was put in foster care. ForeverDads help[ed me] get transportation to see him . . . [N]ow I can see him for two hours on Tuesdays at the ForeverDads' building. I am very grateful for this program because it help[ed] me more to understand about being a father and a parent.

-ISSAC, FOREVERDADS

My first exposure to Passages was when I was in the County Jail . . . [for] a drug related incident. When I was released I was homeless and my kids were in foster care. With the help of Passages I got a job and eventually custody of my kids. . . [and] I've been sober over a year. I've been a single dad my whole life and there's been lots of ups and downs, but this past year has been great. We're doing really well. We sit down and have family meals. I didn't have custody of my kids when I started Passages, but because of Passages involvement, they encourage[d] me to stay strong and I got custody of my kids. . . I have used the strength and structure of the Passages program to sort of realign my attitude of positivity with the eventualities of reaching my goals as a single father.

**-UNNAMED FATHER,
PASSAGES**

Child Support

Payment of child support is another measure by which the success of fatherhood programs can be gauged. In SFY 2017, participants in OCF-funded programs paid more in child support during and after the programming than they did before it. In addition, many fathers began paying child support for the first time after participating in programming.

Child Support Collections

| Collection Summary for all Participants that completed the OCF Program | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| \$140,000 | | | \$164,103 |
| \$120,000 | | | |
| \$100,000 | | \$87,660 | |
| \$80,000 | \$78,976 | | |
| \$60,000 | | | |
| \$40,000 | | | |
| \$20,000 | | | |
| \$0 | | | |
| | Amount Collected 3 Months Prior | Amount Collected During | Collections 3 Months After Granduating |

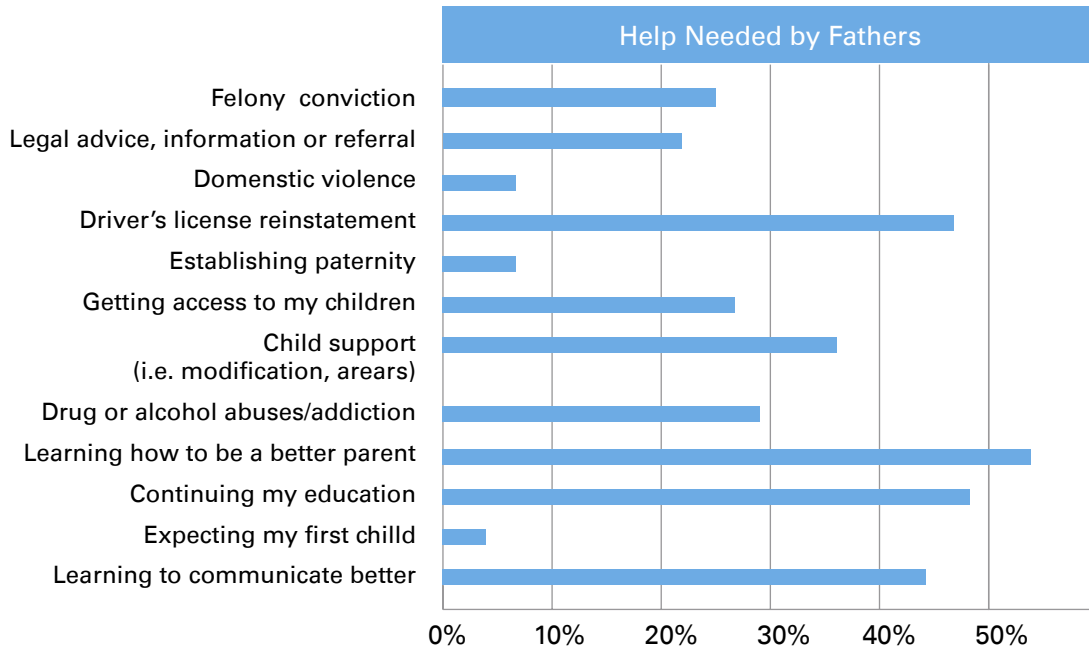
New Child Support Payors by Grantee

| Grantees | Number of New Payors | Amount Collected |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Action for Children | 95 | \$9,983 |
| CACEHR | 70 | \$2,778 |
| The Centers For Families | 55 | \$4,596 |
| Forever Dads | 220 | \$4,367 |
| LACCA-WOCAP | 42 | \$2,881 |
| Passages | 176 | \$19,845 |
| ULM | 70 | \$720 |
| WSOS | 230 | \$11,031 |
| Total | 958 | \$56,201 |



Progress Toward Goals

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood undertakes initiatives to build fathers' parenting skills, to provide employment services to low-income noncustodial fathers, to prevent premature fatherhood, to provide services to formerly incarcerated fathers, to reconcile fathers with their families, and to increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play. The following pages show progress made toward those goals in SFY 2017.



Building Parenting Skills

After completing OCF-funded fatherhood programs:

- 97 percent of fathers reported more confidence in their parenting skills
- More fathers had parenting agreements
- More fathers shared meals with their children
- Fathers showed increased financial responsibility for their children



How much do you agree with the statement that since attending the program, I feel more confident that I have the skills to be an effective parent.

| Q. 56 | POST |
|-------------------|------|
| Strongly Agree | 43% |
| Agree | 54% |
| Disagree | 2% |
| Strongly Disagree | 1% |

How often in the past month have you had a meal together with your child/ren?

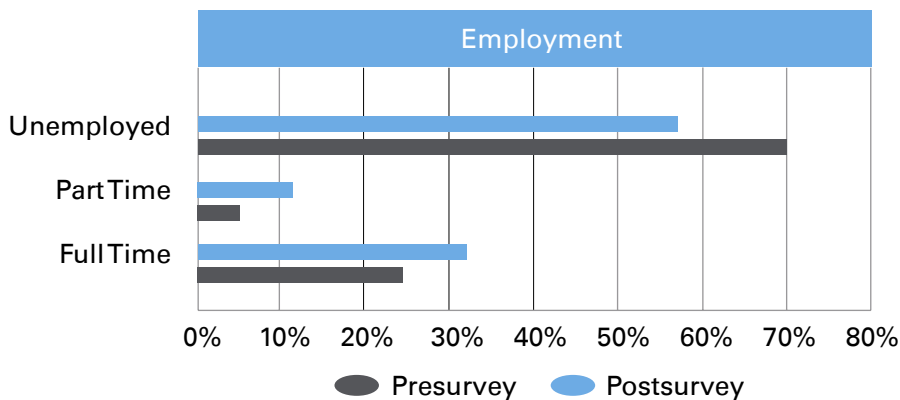
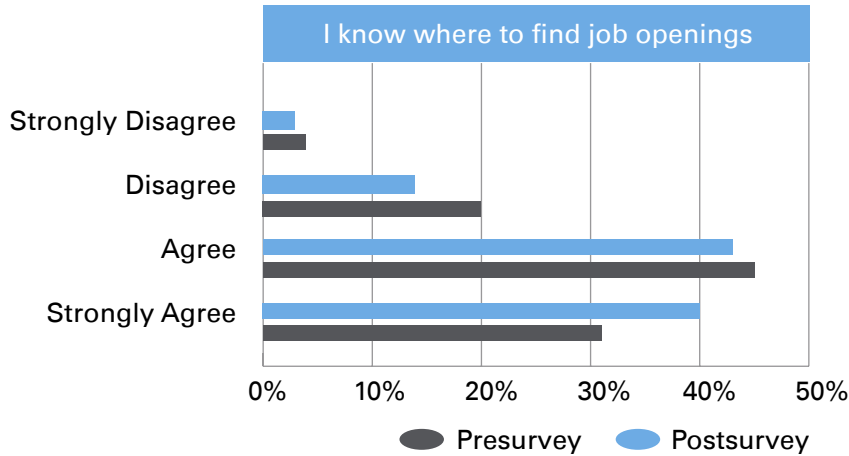
| Q. 18 | PRE | POST |
|-------------------------------|-----|------|
| Every day or almost every day | 33% | 34% |
| 1-3 times a week | 18% | 18% |
| 1-3 times a month | 18% | 21% |
| Never | 31% | 27% |

In the past month did you buy things for your child/ren that s/he needed?

| Q. 12 | PRE | POST |
|-------|-----|------|
| Yes | 64% | 70% |
| No | 36% | 30% |

Providing Employment-Related Services

All OCF grantees are required to provide employment services to fathers, to help them take financial responsibility for their children and become better providers. Of the 382 fathers who completed surveys before and after receiving services, full-time employment increased 7 percent, unemployment decreased 14 percent, and most reported knowing where to find job openings.



"I have landed a position, which starts tomorrow, with so much potential to grow with the company. So many doors have closed in my face, but thanks to this program, someone is giving me a second chance to show the person I am."

–Graduate

Preventing Premature Fatherhood

OCF educates young men about the benefits of delaying becoming a father until they are financially and emotionally ready. In SFY 2017, two OCF grantees – Urban Light Ministries and Forever Dads – conducted educational outreach with teens at Trotwood-Madison High School and Muskingum and Perry County Juvenile Detention Centers, to help them think through the consequences of parenthood before taking that life-changing step. To provide materials for grantees to hand out at these and other events, OCF created the “Are You Ready to be a Dad?” flyer below.

Are You Ready to be a Dad?

Are you ready to commit for life to the mother of your children? Whether you are married or not, when you have child with someone, you're connected for life.

**Becoming a father is easy.
Being a father is a lot more complicated.**

Not only are fathers financially responsible for their children, they're emotionally responsible for their children. The relationship you have with your children will have a lasting, lifelong impact.

Here are some questions to ask yourself before taking this life-changing step.

To learn more about how to become the best father you can be, visit **fatherhood.ohio.gov**.

Are you prepared to be a role model? Kids watch everything you do. Good fathers don't just tell their children how to live; they show them through their actions every day.

Are you ready to spend time with your child? Fathers make a huge difference in the lives of their children. Kids raised without their dads are more likely to experience poverty, use drugs, drop out of school and end up in prison.

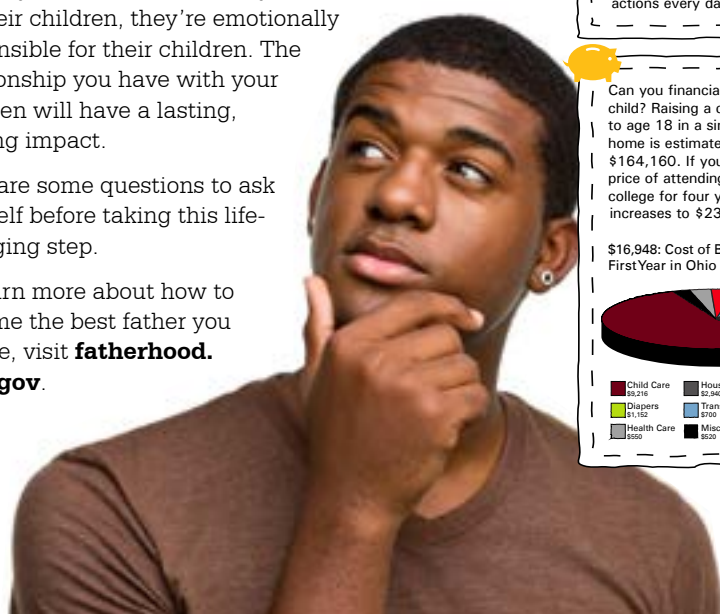
Do you know how to be a "good father"? The kind of relationship you had with your own father will affect the kind of father you are to your children. Make sure you're ready to nurture, guide and provide for your children. They'll need to know that you love them unconditionally just the way they are.

Are you ready to put your own wants aside? Once you have children, all of your decisions will have to be guided by what's in their best interest. Good dads put their kids first.

Can you financially support a child? Raising a child from birth to age 18 in a single-parent home is estimated to cost \$164,160. If you include the price of attending a public college for four years, the cost increases to \$237,724.

\$16,948: Cost of Baby's First Year in Ohio

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---------|----------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Child Care | \$8,216 | Housing | \$2,940 | Formula | \$1,450 |
| Diapers | \$1,157 | Transportation | \$700 | Clothing | \$420 |
| Health Care | \$550 | Miscellaneous | \$520 | | |



Providing Services to Incarcerated Fathers

Of the 2,841 fathers served by OCF grantees in SFY 2017, 60 percent of them were incarcerated. Of the non-incarcerated fathers served, 60 percent had a criminal record. OCF purchased copies of the book *Prison without Bars: It Starts Within*, for all incarcerated fathers served by OCF grantees. The book was written by a class facilitator about his personal experiences as a young father in prison.

Grantees conducted fatherhood classes – and OCF staff conducted child support information sessions – at the following correctional institutions (CI) and community-based correctional facilities (CBCF) in SFY 2017:

Fatherhood Classes

Allen/Oakwood CI
Franklin Medical Center
Madison CI
Marion CI
Noble CI
North Central CI
Richland CI
Southeastern CI
Warren CI
Clark County Jail
Cleveland CBCF
Crosswaeh CBCF
Cuyahoga County Jail
Delaware County Jail
Franklin County CBCF
Green Leaf Adult Detention Center
Lake Erie CBCF
Lorain County Jail
Mercer County Correctional
Northwest CBCF
Pickaway County CBCF
Portage County Jail
West Central CBCF
Western Ohio Regional Treatment
and Rehabilitation Center
Zanesville City Jail

Child Support Information Sessions

Chillicothe CI
Correctional Reception Center
Grafton CI
Lebanon CI
London CI
Lorain CI
Mansfield CI
Ohio State Penitentiary
Pickaway CI
Ross CI



“The greatest enemy faced by fathers who are incarcerated or who have returned home is the enemy of self. My book addresses how to eliminate the barriers that reside within each of us and that prevent men from being the great fathers that their children need them to be. Change starts within yourself and it starts within your current situation.”

– Carlos Christian, *Prison without Bars: It Starts Within*

“As a result of completing the Passages program, I have strengthened my relationship with the mother of my child, and now I understand the importance of being a father. I see my daughter every day.”

–Unnamed Father, Passages

Reconciling Fathers with their Families

After completing OCF-funded programming, most fathers report improved communication with their co-parent and increased time spent with their children. All receive a “Committed Father” lapel pin or wrist band and a commitment card to remind them of all that they learned and promised to do.

Time Spent with their Children

| Q. 8: I last saw my children... | PRE | POST |
|---------------------------------|-----|------|
| In the past week | 60% | 62% |
| In the past month | 11% | 12% |
| In the past six months | 14% | 10% |
| In the past year | 4% | 4% |
| 1-2 years ago | 5% | 6% |
| More than 2 years ago | 8% | 6% |

Communication with Co-parent

| Q. 50 & 51 | PRE | POST |
|--|-----|------|
| We have a good co-parenting relationship with good communication | 36% | 48% |
| Our communication and co-parenting relationship could be better | 32% | 29% |
| We have a poor relationship and do not communicate well | 32% | 23% |



Infant Mortality Prevention

Research shows that when fathers encourage breastfeeding, don't smoke and practice safe sleep habits with their babies, infant mortality rates decline. For that reason, "New Beginnings for New Fathers" is expected to help reduce Ohio's infant mortality rate. In addition, the commission is an active participant in the statewide Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality. OCF Director Kimberly Dent is co-chair of the "Promoting Father Involvement in Maternal and Child Health" workgroup.



OCF also worked to reduce Ohio's infant mortality rate by funding a two-year pilot program with the Columbus Urban League and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's Moms2B Program. Moms2B provided weekly classes for expectant and new parents at four locations in Columbus' poorest neighborhoods. Instructors took a positive approach and surrounded pregnant and new moms and dads with the support, education and the resources they need to be better parents. Fathers who completed the Urban League's responsible fatherhood program served as mentors. The pilot was so successful that Wexner and the Urban League plan to continue collaborating and will expand services to additional sites.

Increasing Public Awareness

OCF does a significant amount of public outreach to spread the word about the importance of fathers to their children's lives and the availability of local programs to help fathers become better parents, partners and providers.

Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative

While father absence is a national issue, solutions must be found and implemented locally, one community at a time. With this in mind, OCF's County Fatherhood Initiative has provided a \$10,000 seed grant and ongoing assistance for the launch or continuation of local programs that help fathers become more engaged, responsible parents. Since 2011, 21 counties have participated in the project. In SFY 2017, free training was provided to county leaders and concerned citizens in four Ohio counties: Butler, Clinton, Delaware and Portage.

Responsible Fatherhood Month

For the fourth consecutive year, OCF provided grants of \$1,500 and \$2,500 for local fatherhood celebrations and responsible fatherhood campaigns in June, which Governor Kasich declared “Responsible Fatherhood Month.” Events were held throughout the state, in urban, suburban and rural areas, to help fathers be better parents, partners and providers; promote positive fathering and co-parenting; and showcase local providers of fatherhood resources and information.



The following organizations received funding in June 2017:

| Organization | County |
|---|------------|
| West Ohio Community Action Partnership | Auglaize |
| CSEA Columbiana County | Columbiana |
| Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland | Cuyahoga |
| NAAM Wellness Walk Initiative | Franklin |
| ForeverDads | Guernsey |
| Eye of the Artists Foundation | Hamilton |
| United Returning Citizens, Inc. | Mahoning |
| Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. | Montgomery |
| Montgomery County Dept. of Job & Family Services | Montgomery |
| Passages Connecting Fathers & Sons | Portage |

Newsletter

OCF emails a newsletter to more than 2,000 contacts several times a year to announce funding opportunities and highlight activities by grantees. Anyone interested can subscribe at fatherhood.ohio.gov.

Daddy's Tool Bag

This library of videos explains the basics of baby care to new fathers in a light-hearted but informative way. Topics cover everything from how to change a diaper to how to install a car seat. OCF purchased DVDs to give to new fathers and also posted a link at fatherhood.ohio.gov.

Presentations

OCF staff presented at the following conferences and coalition meetings in SY 2017 to raise awareness about the importance of father involvement and to inform people about the commission's work:

- Butler County Infant Mortality Collaboration
- Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
- Cradle Cincinnati
- Early Childhood Mental Health Conference
- Lucas County Infant Mortality Coalition
- Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Education Programs Conference
- Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality's Infant Mortality Summit
- Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition
- Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association Annual Training Conference
- Southeast Ohio Reentry Coalition
- Stark County Fatherhood Coalition



Service on Boards and Committees

OCF Executive Director Kimberly Dent serves on the following community boards and committees, to share her perspective on the importance of involving fathers:

- Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality Executive Steering Committee
- Central Ohio Transit Authority Mobility Board
- Ohio's Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team
- Child Support Strategic Workgroup
- Red Treehouse Steering Committee
- YMCA First Breath Initiative at the Van Buren Center
- Infant Mortality Summit Planning Committee
- Child Injury Action Group's Safe Sleep Subcommittee



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 and follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/OCFatherhood

John R. Kasich, Governor
State of Ohio

Cynthia C. Dungey, Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.