



Fatherhood
Research
& Practice
Network

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**Engaging State Legislators About
Fatherhood
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How to identify & cultivate legislators who might be:

- Influential?
- Champions?
- Supporters?



How to communicate with legislators about

FATHERHOOD



Press Conference

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Hearings on Fatherhood

Fatherhood Summit

Town Hall

One-on-one meeting with Legislator/Staff

Jurisdiction-Specific Data

Other Approaches?





How to Pursue Funding

Urban/Rural Alliance

Combine with 2-Gen

Combine with Children's
Commission

Temporary Assistance to
Needy Families (TANF)/Block
Grant Funds

Special Appropriation

State Match for Federal Funds

How do you convince legislators to support father engagement?



What type of data are effective? What type of messages?

Testimonials, Return on Investment, Child outcomes,
Jurisdiction-specific information, State-level data, Others

Useful Partners for a Legislative Appeal:

Child Support Agencies



Child Welfare Agencies



Early Childhood Education Programs

Maternal and Child Health Programs



Corrections and Probation/Parole
Programs

Home Visiting Programs



Any advice or ideas you can offer?
Can the legislature play a role?



Sources of Opposition to Fatherhood

Overcoming Arguments Against Fatherhood

Building a Multi-Agency Alliance

Building Bi-Partisan Support for Fatherhood

Including fathers in 2Gen initiatives

Convincing a state to spend unobligated TANF balances on
fatherhood

Working with the executive branch

Effective public/citizen interventions



Contact
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FRPN Brief



“State Approaches to Father Involvement in Programs and Policies Dealing with Children and Families.”

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