

# **PEI FATHERHOOD EVALUATION:**

## **COMMUNITY AND STATEWIDE EFFORTS TO SUPPORT AND ENGAGE FATHERS**

### **Final Evaluation Report**

#### **Overview and Background**

Father involvement has increased dramatically over the past several decades, and simultaneously, a growing interest among researchers in studying the role that fathers play in the lives of their children. Findings from these studies overwhelmingly show that children with involved fathers fare better across a wide range of domains compared to children without an involved father.

Federal and state investments in promoting the positive impact fathers have on their children and families continue to increase, but are occurring within a context of dramatic change for American families. Many men are becoming fathers in particularly disadvantageous situations. Young, unmarried, and lacking in education, these men face a multitude of barriers to being the fathers they want to be, from poor employment prospects and high incarceration rates, to juggling multiple parenting roles among the children they live with and the ones with whom they do not.

The state of Texas recognizes the important role that fathers play in the lives of their children and families, and also how challenging it can be for some fathers to be involved. In addition to investing in fatherhood programs, Texas is committed to considering a broader system of supports for fathers. This broader agenda includes gathering key stakeholders, such as program providers, researchers, and state agencies, to assess the state of fatherhood in Texas, convening state agency leaders to identify gaps in service provision and opportunities for collaboration across agencies, and championing the use of a father-inclusive lens in programs and services for families and the general public.

In FY18, the Child and Family Research Partnership (CFRP) supported the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention Division (PEI) in two fatherhood initiatives: 1) coordinating and convening interagency and cross-sector fatherhood councils at both the statewide and local levels; and 2) planning and hosting a third annual Fatherhood Summit. This report summarizes progress made over the last fiscal year convening the Texas Fatherhood Interagency Council and the Central Texas Fatherhood Group, and provides an overview of the third annual Fatherhood Summit held in June 2018.

### Statewide Collaboration

Recognizing the importance of cross-agency coordination and collaboration, CFRP partnered with PEI to host the Texas Fatherhood Interagency Council (TFIC) meetings on a quarterly basis throughout FY18. Meetings were held in September and December 2017 and in April 2018. A luncheon for elected and appointed officials during the Fatherhood Summit in June (described in detail later) replaced the June meeting. Representatives from multiple state agencies attended the quarterly meetings (Table 1).

Table 1. Texas Fatherhood Interagency Council FY18 Attendees
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Office of Volunteer and Community Engagement
Texas Workforce Commission
Texas Education Agency
Texas Office of the Attorney General, Child Support Division
Texas Department of State Health Services, Title V, Maternal and Child Health
Texas Department of State Health Services, Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)
Texas Juvenile Justice Department
University of Texas System, Population Health
University of Texas at Austin, LBJ School of Public Affairs, Child and Family Research Partnership

In addition to providing attendees with a forum to share important agency updates on fatherhood related initiatives and programs, meetings largely focused on how Texas might formalize the TFIC to include a clear, measurable statement of purpose; define a leadership structure and membership; and establish a scope of work.

At the December meeting, the TFIC hosted a webinar with the executive director of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF) to learn about Ohio’s model to comprehensively support fathers across the state. The OCF primarily funds responsible fatherhood programs across the

state (70 percent of its funds are dedicated to fatherhood programming); it also develops policy recommendations and provides guidance on legislation and policies, engages the broader Ohio community on fatherhood, and trains county leaders to mobilize and support responsible fatherhood in their own communities. The OCF is housed within Ohio's Department of Jobs and Family Services, which oversees Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, protective services, foster care and adoption, child care, job services, unemployment, and child support across the state.

The executive director, Kimberly Dent, shared key lessons from Ohio's experience. She highlighted the importance of having a political champion: state legislators have played and continue to play key roles in advocating for the OCF's creation and maintenance, and for the allocation of funds in the biennial state budget to support the OCF's work. Ms. Dent also stressed the value of developing a structure that brought together key stakeholders from the government and promoted active participation from senior-level staff. Entrenched in legislation, the OCF's bi-partisan structure includes two state senators, four state representatives, the directors of all the state agencies, a designee from the Governor's Office, a designee from the state Supreme Court, a representative from the Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) Cabinet Council, and five members of the public, appointed by the governor. The legislation also requires the OCF to meet at least four times a year. Because of this structure, Ms. Dent suggested, attendance at OCF meetings is a priority for members. She noted that legislators attend every meeting, and delegates to the OCF are high-ranking officials who have the authority to represent their agency in council votes.

The TFIC discussed the value of approaching the legislature, Governor's Office, and state Supreme Court to share information on the work currently being done to support and engage fathers in Texas, and the need to provide more comprehensive services for Texas fathers and families. CFRP created a high-level summary to share with the Governor's Office, state Supreme Court, and legislators for this purpose (Appendix A). A draft of this high-level summary was shared with the TFIC for feedback and provided to DFPS-PEI for dissemination.

The TFIC is scheduled to meet again in September 2018 and quarterly thereafter. The TFIC will continue to be a platform for state-level coordination and collaboration in fatherhood and will prioritize discussions of what formalized structure might be necessary to ensure its longevity.

### Central Texas Community-Level Collaboration

In addition to the statewide collaborative, CFRP continues to work with the Central Texas community to create systems-level change to support fathers and their families. In early Fall 2017, CFRP identified a core group of stakeholders working in fatherhood in Central Texas to convene a community coalition for supporting fathers. CFRP held a meeting with five community members from Greater Mount Zion Church, the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA), Parents as Teachers (PAT), DFPS, and Community Action, Inc., in mid-November 2017 to discuss the possibility of organizing a collective effort around supporting fathers in the Central Texas.<sup>1</sup> The community members at the meeting agreed to reach out to the Central Texas community to determine if there was interest in creating a community-wide group to support fathers in Central Texas by coordinating efforts and enacting systems-level change. Realizing the need to reach out to the broadest group of community members who interact with fathers in any capacity, CFRP reached out to stakeholders from a wide range of sectors (Table 2). In December 2017, CFRP extended an invitation to over 80 members of the Central Texas community to a kick-off conversation and lunch in January 2018 to discuss interest in supporting local fathers. These stakeholders represented more than 70 different organizations, agencies, and departments.

Table 2. Sample Representation of Invited Cross-Sector Stakeholders	
Business/Workforce	Foundations/Nonprofits
Child/Youth Programs and Activities	Health (mental, physical, substance abuse, etc.)
Criminal Justice (adult and juvenile)	Local Government
Education (early childhood, elementary, secondary, and post-secondary)	Media/Communication
Faith Community	Military and Veterans
Family and Child Safety (including family violence and child welfare)	Parenting Programs
Family Courts and Child Support	Social Services

### Kick-off Conversation

On January 9, 2018, CFRP, Greater Mount Zion, HACA, PAT, DFPS-CPS, St. David’s Foundation, and Community Action Inc., co-hosted the Central Texas Fatherhood Kick-Off Conversation.

<sup>1</sup> A representative from the St. David’s Foundation expressed interest in supporting the group, but was unable to attend the November 2017 meeting.

Forty-two attendees from 30 different organizations attended the meeting, including representatives from the City of Austin, Travis County, 126<sup>th</sup> District Court, and Austin Independent School District (AISD).

Attendees shared information on the services their organizations provide and how their work impacts or serves fathers in the community. Meeting participants were encouraged by the community’s strong show of interest in supporting fathers. They expressed a desire to continue to meet with one another, create a list of resources available in the Central Texas area (provided in Appendix B), and identify ways to collaborate to serve fathers.

Meeting attendees also discussed the needs of fathers in the community and ideas for systems-level goals that support fathers and families. Participants stressed the importance of valuing the identity of fathers, addressing fathers’ needs, and establishing a community norm of active father engagement in children’s lives. At the meeting, CFRP shared a framework for creating (and measuring progress toward) systems-level change (Figure 1). Meeting attendees were interested in relying on this framework to structure and drive their work.

Figure 1. Framework for Systems-Level Change



At the end of the meeting, CFRP asked attendees to write down their commitments to the group (see Appendix C). Nearly all attendees committed to attend subsequent meetings, and almost 70 percent committed to either inviting a colleague from their own or another organization to the next meeting, or to contributing to a resource directory. Finally, nearly 30 percent of attendees committed to taking on a leadership position in the group.

CFRP convened fatherhood stakeholders from Central Texas four times since the kick-off conversation in January. A list of the organizations represented in the coalition is provided in Appendix D. Similar to the interagency meetings, attendees at each of the Central Texas Fatherhood meetings shared information on the services their organizations provide and how their work impacts or serves fathers in the community. Many stakeholders have shared how valuable it has been to learn about all of the various programs and resources available for fathers in the local community. In addition, the meetings have been spent working through the foundational activities in CFRP’s framework for systems-level change (Figure 1).

**Foundational Activities**

Stakeholders have worked to identify a specific and measurable goal and to identify additional partners who need to be at the table. CFRP conducted a literature review of the predictors of father engagement and provided the stakeholders with the evidence base for father engagement (i.e., the known predictors of fathers’ engagement with their children (Appendix E; Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Evidence Base for Increasing Father Engagement**



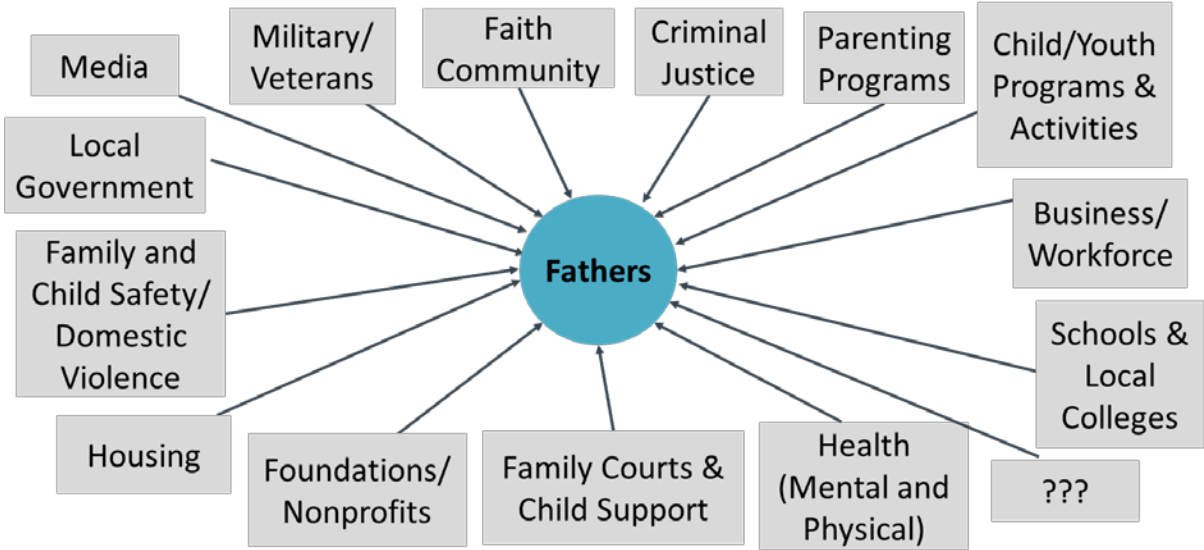
The primary predictors of father engagement aligned closely with what stakeholders identified as the greatest needs among the fathers in the Central Texas community. The group agreed to keep the goal of increasing father engagement as their larger goal, but decided to focus on the secondary goal of increasing fathers’ parenting skills, sense of confidence, value, and identity as fathers. The consensus among stakeholders was that a primary need of fathers was their lack of understanding of their importance and value to their children. Per the stakeholders’ consensus,

CFRP conducted a deeper dive into the evidence linking fathers’ parenting skills, sense of confidence, value, and identity as fathers to involvement with their children (Attachment F).

The next task for the coalition will be to determine how to translate this objective into a measurable goal. CFRP is developing an updated version of the Parenting Check-In for Dads (PCI-D; Attachment G) to share with the central Texas community. This version of the PCI-D could be used by the Central Texas Fatherhood Coalition to learn about the state of fathers in the community and assess the coalition’s progress toward its overarching goal of increasing father engagement in Central Texas. The PCI-D measures the following domains, centered on a father’s youngest child: father contact (for nonresidential fathers), father engagement, parent-child relationship quality, and discipline (parenting skills). The PCI-D also measures co-parenting relationship quality with the youngest child’s mother, and includes questions about a father’s employment, challenges, and his perception of how fathers are valued in the community. If stakeholders decide to implement the PCI-D among the population of fathers they serve, the data would help stakeholders assess a baseline of father engagement and track change.

Additionally, time is spent at each meeting reflecting on which partners still need to be at the table and how to engage them. The primary gaps include consistent representation from local government, law enforcement, and local businesses.

Figure 3. Who Needs To Be At The Table?



### Lessons Learned

CFRP gained valuable knowledge from the experience of launching the Central Texas fatherhood group. First, it is fundamental to identify a core group of stakeholders across different sectors who recognize the same need in the community and to identify a backbone organization to help convene stakeholders. In this case, both the Housing Authority of the City of Austin and Greater Mount Zion Church determined independently that supporting fathers and encouraging their involvement with their families was an important need in Central Texas. CFRP was able to connect representatives from these organizations with members of the community who also identified supporting fathers as a critical local need and had experience working on fatherhood issues in the community. Having a core group of community members who had already independently reached the same conclusion on a major need in the Central Texas area legitimized the purpose of the group, and made clear the need to reach out to a larger audience to assess interest in working collectively. Currently, CFRP is working as the backbone organization to assist the core group of stakeholders in convening meetings, providing meeting locations and funding for resources.

Second, casting a wide net and inviting as many potential stakeholders as possible is crucial. CFRP invited direct contacts to the meeting when applicable. However, because systems-level change demands bringing all stakeholders to the table, CFRP reached out to sectors in which it did not have contacts, such as the business community and workforce training, among others. In these cases, CFRP invited representatives from multiple organizations in each sector, in the expectation that at least one person could attend and then encourage participation from their sector.

Third, because systems-level change is a gradual process that takes time, it is helpful to establish early or intermediate deliverables for the group to feel that it is making progress. Deliverables that can be created earlier in the process, such as an inventory of programs and services that support fathers or a list of preliminary recommendations for agencies and organizations, help maintain the momentum generated from the enthusiastic first meeting.

Finally, creating and using a pre-commitment tool for the group members helps the backbone organization ensure follow-through. Although the purpose of the pre-commitment tool is to help individuals remind themselves of their own commitments and hold themselves accountable, the use of a written pre-commitment pledge also empowers the backbone organization. The pledges allow the backbone organization to easily identify and hold accountable members of the group who are willing to engage in certain activities, such as providing information or taking on a leadership role.



### Third Annual Fatherhood Summit

The third annual Texas Fatherhood Summit was hosted on June 29, 2018 (Appendix H). This year's theme was "Engaging Communities, Strengthening Families" and centered on community initiatives to support fathers and their families. Nearly 450 individuals registered to attend the Summit. Among those who registered (and did not cancel), 65 percent actually attended. Most attendees (61%) had never previously attended a Fatherhood Summit. Compared to the 2017 Fatherhood Summit, the 2018 Summit included fewer direct service providers, more advocacy organizations, and slightly more government representatives. When asked to describe their organization's focus, registrants largely identified parenting programs and support, family and child safety, and social services.

Keynote speakers included Mayor Ron Nirenberg of the City of San Antonio and collective impact expert Paul Schmitz, CEO of Leading Inside Out. Two panels provided lessons learned at both the state and local levels on how to engage with organizations and fathers at the community level. The first panel included representatives from the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, the Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Fatherhood Initiative, the Washington Department of Social and Health Services Division of Child Support, and the Fatherhood Coalition of Tarrant County. The second panel highlighted the Central Texas Fatherhood Coalition as an example of a community approach to serving fathers. Additionally, the Summit provided attendees with a framework for doing systems-level work and how to measure the changes to get there; and engaged attendees to develop strategies for making their own organizations more father-friendly.

This year's summit provided a unique opportunity to bring elected officials in Texas together to discuss whether the formalized approaches to supporting fatherhood in Ohio and Washington were models for what could happen in Texas. Ohio Senator Bill Beagle, chairman of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, hosted a lunch at the summit attended by numerous elected and appointed officials in Texas (Table 3), along with stakeholders involved in the fatherhood efforts in Ohio, Washington, and Tarrant County, Texas. Senator Beagle provided luncheon attendees with background information on the origin and purpose of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood and led a discussion about what a formalized approach to supporting Texas fathers might look like. Attendees noted the need for more cross-agency coordination to remove barriers for fathers who want to be engaged, particularly among the agencies that frequently interface with fathers. Attendees also agreed that an important first step might be to ask the Texas legislature

to form a task force to decide if and what structure (e.g. legislative codification) would be necessary to formally support fathers in Texas.

**Table 3. Texas Elected and Appointed Officials’ Attendance at Summit Luncheon**

Office of the Texas Governor
Mayor, City of San Antonio
Office of Texas Senator Royce West
Office of Texas Senator Judith Zaffirini
Office of Texas Representative Nicole Collier
Office of Texas Representative Donna Howard
Commissioner, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Associate Commissioner & Deputy Associate Commissioner, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Division
Associate Commissioner, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Child Protective Services
Deputy Attorney General, Texas Office of the Attorney General, Child Support Division

Slightly more than half of attendees (N=145) completed the post-Fatherhood Summit survey. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The vast majority of respondents found the information provided during each session valuable, though Paul Schmitz’ opening keynote was especially a crowd favorite. Nearly 100 percent of respondents reported making useful connections with other fatherhood stakeholders at the summit, and found the summit to be a valuable experience overall. Moreover, nearly 80 percent of respondents agreed they would start or join a coalition in their community.

The survey also asked attendees to elaborate about why they choose to attend the summit, what information they found the most useful for their work, and what they would have liked to have heard or learned more about. Most commonly, attendees responded they attended because fatherhood is an important topic, to get new ideas, especially about how to engage fathers, and to network. Participants reported the information Paul Schmitz shared about leadership and collective impact, the panel highlighting other statewide and community initiatives for supporting fathers, and brainstorming ideas for engaging fathers to be the most useful for their work. Finally, attendees’ ideas for what they would like to hear or learn more about centered on the barriers and challenges (e.g., incarceration, racism, law enforcement, maternal gatekeeping) preventing fathers from being engaged with their children and families.

### Conclusions and Next Steps

The state of Texas continues to demonstrate a significant commitment to supporting fathers and their families through evidence-based programming, collaboration and coordination among state agencies to coordinate efforts to support fathers, acknowledgment of the need to be more father-inclusive in family programs and services, and annual summits that bring together providers, state agencies, advocates, nonprofits, and researchers in the field of fatherhood. Moving forward, this commitment at the state level should be a model for collaboration and commitment to fatherhood at the local level.

A state-led effort to support and train stakeholders in responsible fatherhood across Texas communities would increase the visibility of the state's commitment to fatherhood. All organizations and agencies who provide resources and services to families directly should be trained in the importance of father engagement, strategies for engaging fathers, and strategies for making an organization more welcoming to fathers. Father engagement is not a strategy just for fatherhood programs; all programs can benefit from father engagement training. Additionally, adapting the annual statewide fatherhood summit into regional collaboratives would further support direct-service professionals in father engagement and promote whole-family policies. Regional collaboratives would provide an important platform for providing technical assistance on best practices for engaging fathers to community providers, and would provide opportunities for regions to try new partnerships and experiment with program services and delivery.

The state of Texas is confronting the systematic challenges that many fathers and families face in providing a supportive, safe, and stable environment for Texas children, and can better support communities as they confront the challenges unique to their local context.

## Texas is doing a lot to serve fathers

Texas agencies provide a range of services and programs to fathers and their families:

### *Interagency Collaboration*

- Annual Texas Fatherhood Summit
- Texas Fatherhood Interagency Council

More than 70 local programs and groups support fathers:

### *Local Leaders*

- Fatherhood Coalition of Tarrant County
- San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign
- Central Texas Fatherhood Coalition



# Fatherhood in Texas

The state of Texas recognizes the important role that fathers play in the lives of their children and families. Involved fatherhood is linked to better outcomes on nearly every measure of child wellbeing from cognitive and emotional development and academic success, to reduced delinquency and improved mental health. Texas also understands that fathers' needs are often distinct from those of mothers and other family members. Father-specific supports in Texas feature an array of services, including state-funded programs and local initiatives designed to increase fathers' economic self-sufficiency and improve their parenting knowledge and skills.

## But there are gaps to provide fathers the full range of services they need

### At the state level...

- No official body exists to promote comprehensive policies and services for fathers
- Greater coordination of agency efforts to support fathers is needed
- Fathers are not accurately identified and counted in social services to ensure their needs are met
- Noncustodial parents need more options to manage child support arrears
- Social services and programs focus mostly on mothers and children, not fathers

### Local programs...

- Are mostly concentrated in urban areas
- Meet some, but not all of fathers' needs
- Are disconnected from one another

List of Texas agency programs and services that support fathers on back



## CHILD & FAMILY

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
LBJ SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

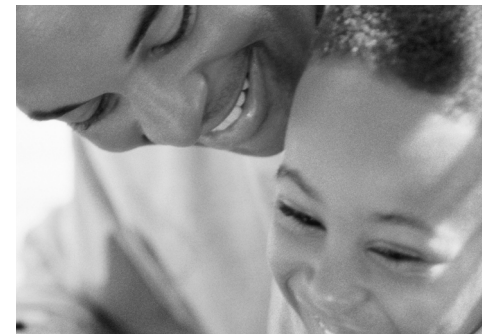
childandfamilyresearch.utexas.edu  
cfrp@austin.utexas.edu

## Where do we go from here?

### Establish a formal, state-level council to support fatherhood to:

- Provide guidance on policies and laws
- Create and share resources for policymakers and fatherhood program providers on research and best practices
- Support programming and new initiatives
- Share a publicly accessible clearinghouse of programs and resources for program providers and fathers
- Facilitate state and regional networks for fatherhood stakeholders

# How Texas agencies are supporting fathers through policies, programs, and services:



## Future, Expectant, and New Parents

- Office of the Attorney General (OAG) Parenting and Paternity Awareness (p.a.p.a.) at all public middle and high schools, including Texas Juvenile Justice Department state-operated facilities
- Department of State Health Services Healthy Texas Babies
- Health and Human Services Commission WIC Peer Dad Program
- Department of Family and Protective Services Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Texas Home Visiting
- PEI Safe Babies



## Support throughout the Child's Life

- Texas Child Protective Services Responsible Fathering Initiative
- Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) child care assistance
- Texas Education Agency Start Smart Texas
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED)
- PEI
  - Fatherhood EFFECT responsible fatherhood program
  - Military Families and Veteran Pilot Prevention Program
  - Help through Intervention and Prevention (HIP)
  - Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Supports (HOPES)
  - Home-Visiting Education and Leadership (HEAL)
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)
  - Partners with local organizations to provide parenting and coparenting programs to incarcerated parents at select sites
  - Holds annual Family Days for offenders to visit relatives



## Child Support and Custody

- Unmarried parents can voluntarily establish paternity at the child's birth in the hospital or by going to their local child support office
- State law presumes joint managing conservatorship
- Application for public benefits by custodial parent automatically opens child support case if a child support order does not already exist
- All child support orders are accompanied by parenting time plan
- OAG phone hotline and online resource directory helps noncustodial parents enforce access and visitation
- OAG + TDCJ cooperate to assist incarcerated noncustodial parents with modifying child support orders
- OAG + TWC Non-Custodial Parent (NCP) Choices Program supports low-income or under/unemployed noncustodial parents

## Appendix B: Central Texas Fatherhood Resource Directory

### Fatherhood in Central Texas

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#### *Father Resource Directory*

March 2018

**NOTES:**

*This inventory was constructed using information provided by organizations and supplemented by staff at the Child and Family Research Partnership (CFRP). Organizations may offer services beyond the categories listed in this directory; please contact individual organizations for more information on their services. Additionally, resources include services for adults, parents, and families.*

*Organizations participating in the Central Texas Fatherhood Coalition are identified with an asterisk in the resource directory.*

*For questions or more information about this directory, or to add your organization to the list, please contact the Child and Family Research Partnership at: [cfpr@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:cfpr@austin.utexas.edu).*

## List of Programs in Austin Serving Fathers & Parents, by Service Area

### ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

African American Youth Harvest Foundation  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas  
City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department\*  
City of Austin Youth and Family Services/Youth Initiatives Office\*  
El Buen Samaritano\*  
Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church\*

### ADULT EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Austin Community College  
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services\*  
Community Action, Inc.\*  
El Buen Samaritano\*  
Goodwill of Central Texas\*  
Lifeworks\*  
Literacy Coalition of Central Texas  
Manos de Cristo  
Workforce Solutions Capital Area\*

### CHILD CARE

Child Inc.\*  
Community Action, Inc.\*  
SAFE Alliance\*  
Workforce Solutions Capital Area\*

### CHILD CUSTODY & VISITATION, CHILD SUPPORT

Office of the Attorney General, Child Support Division\*  
Travis County Domestic Relations Office\*

### CHILD WELFARE (CHILD MALTREATMENT, FOSTER YOUTH)

CASA of Travis County\*  
Casey Family Programs\*  
Center for Child Protection\*  
SAFE Alliance\*  
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services\*  
Travis County Family Drug Treatment Court\*  
Travis County Office of Children Services\*  
Travis County Office of Parental Representation\*

## **COPARENTING RELATIONSHIPS**

Child Inc.\*  
SAFE Alliance\*  
Travis County Domestic Relations Office\*

## **DISABILITIES OR SPECIAL NEEDS**

Any Baby Can  
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services\*  
Travis County Office of Children Services\*  
VELA Families

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

SAFE Alliance\*  
Texas Advocacy Project  
Texas Council on Family Violence\*  
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services\*

## **FAITH-BASED**

Catholic Charities of Central Texas  
Catholic Diocese of Austin\*  
Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church\*  
Islamic Center of Greater Austin  
Shalom Austin

## **FOOD PANTRY**

Central Texas Food Bank\*  
El Buen Samaritano\*  
Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church\*  
Manos de Cristo

## **GENERAL RESOURCES**

Catholic Charities of Central Texas  
El Buen Samaritano\*  
The Austin Project  
United Way for Greater Austin\*



## HEALTH RESOURCES

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services\*  
Community Action, Inc.\*  
El Buen Samaritano\*  
Lifeworks  
Manos de Cristo  
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Austin\*  
People's Community Clinic\*  
Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas\*  
Samaritan Center  
Seton Dell Children's Medical Center  
St. David's Foundation\*  
Sustainable Food Center

## HOUSING AND HOMELESS RESOURCES

Austin Independent School District\*  
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services\*  
Catholic Charities of Central Texas  
Housing Authority of the City of Austin\*  
Lifeworks

## LEGAL RESOURCES

126<sup>th</sup> Civil District Court\*  
Catholic Charities of Central Texas  
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid\*  
Travis County Domestic Relations Office\*  
Travis County Family Drug Treatment Court  
Travis County Office of Parental Representation\*

## MILITARY AND VETERAN RESOURCES

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas  
Catholic Charities of Central Texas  
Military Veteran Peer Network (Samaritan Center)\*  
Samaritan Center

### **PARENTING CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS**

AVANCE-Austin\*  
Child Inc.\*  
Communities in Schools  
Housing Authority of the City of Austin\*  
KLRU-TV, Austin PBS\*  
LifeSteps Council on Alcohol & Drugs\*  
Literacy Coalition of Central Texas  
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services\*  
The Man In Me\*

### **PARENTING SUPPORTS**

African American Youth Harvest Foundation  
Any Baby Can  
Austin Independent School District\*  
Catholic Charities of Central Texas  
Communities in Schools  
Community Action Inc. of Central Texas\*  
The Austin Project  
United Way for Greater Austin\*

### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services\*  
LifeSteps Council on Alcohol & Drugs\*  
Travis County Family Drug Treatment Court

### **TEEN PREGNANCY, TEEN PARENTING, AND SEXUAL EDUCATION**

Austin Independent School District\*  
Cardea\*  
El Buen Samaritano\*  
EngenderHealth\*  
Lifeworks  
People's Community Clinic\*  
Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas\*  
Strengthening Relationships/Strengthening Families  
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services\*

## 126<sup>th</sup> Civil District Court\*

**Services offered to:** Individuals and families whose cases are referred to the court

**Brief description of services available:**

- Child Protective Services court for families in which a legal petition has been filed by the Department of Family and Protective Services

**For more information:** <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/courts/civil/district/126>,  
<http://www.ncjfcj.org/austin-model-court>

## African American Youth Harvest Foundation

**Services offered to:** African American youth, adults, and parents

**Brief description of services available**

- **AAYHF Conferences** at Central Texas school districts to build youths' academic, workforce, social-emotional, and civil skills and competencies
- **Mentoring and Restorative Justice** small group and one-on-one mentoring, as well as connection to wraparound services, for youth identified as needing support
- **Dell Youth CITI** (Communications and Information Technology Initiative) STEM programs, including beginner computer science education for young and preteen girls of color, as well as youth coding, 3D printing, and robotics programs
- **KREW 12** community-focused media program for middle and high school youth
- **Urban University** 6-week summer program for youth
- **Parent Support Groups** promote healthy relationships, economic security, mental and physical wellness, and help parents gain skills to be effective advocates for themselves and/or their children
- **Workforce Assistance** case management and skills training for youth and adults

**For more information:** <https://aayhf.org/>

## Any Baby Can

**Services offered to:** Expectant parents, parents of children up to four years old, parents of children up to 21 years old with disabilities or chronic illnesses

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)** home visiting program that provides parenting and family support for eligible first-time pregnant mothers, up to the first two years of a child's life

- **Healthy Fair Start (HFS)** home visiting program using the Parents as Teachers (PAT) curriculum for eligible low-income families with children younger than four-years-old to increase parents' confidence and skills
- The **Nurturing Parenting Program** free 12- or 16-week parenting classes in English and Spanish focused on positive parenting skills, managing child behavior, child development, and childbirth preparation; **a 12-week father-only series is also available**
- **4-week Childbirth Preparation classes** offered on income-based sliding scale
- **Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program** provides in-home services for children between birth and 36 months with developmental delays (e.g., occupational, physical, and speech therapy, case management, etc.)
- **CHAT (Children's Hearing Aid Texas)** provides auditory services and hearing aids for low-income, eligible children
- **Comprehensive Advocacy and Resources for Empowerment (CARE) program** home-based services for families with children between birth and 20 years old who have a chronic illness or a physical, developmental, emotional, or behavioral health need (e.g., resource navigation, case management, support groups, etc.)
- **Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Program** Home-based services and support for families with children aged 21 and below with cancer

For more information: <http://anybabycan.org/resources/>

### Austin Community College

**Services offered to:** Adults ages 18+ (additional requirements for youth ages 16-18)

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Programs for obtaining an associate's degree or career-ready certificate, or transferring to a 4-year university**
- **Adult Education courses** including English language instruction, literacy/civics, and GED preparation offered free for persons aged 16 and older, pending requirements
- **Continuing education courses** for workforce development, business development, or lifelong learning

For more information: <http://www.austincc.edu/>

### Austin Independent School District (AISD)\*

**Services offered to:** AISD students and family members of students

**Brief description of services available:**

- Parents of students
  - **Homeless education services** provide assistance with bus passes, emergency needs assistance, and referrals
  - **Parent Support Specialists** provide resources and support to parents in Title I schools throughout the city (see appendix, page 34)
- AISD students who are teen parents
  - **Teen parent program** provides support for teen dads, parenting groups and education support services during the school day and case management
  - **High-quality child care** is provided for AISD students at no cost to families

**For more information:** <https://www.austinisd.org/>

### AVANCE-Austin\*

**Services offered to:** Pre-school-aged children and their parents

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Triple P** 12-week home-based parenting and family support system designed to prevent and treat behavioral and emotional problems in children and teenagers
- The **Parent-Child Education Program** 9-month, evidence-based, 2-generation program providing parenting classes, early childhood development, resources, and home visits to low-income Latino families
- **AVANCE/H-E-B Read3 Summer Program** 6-week summer program for parents and caregivers that focuses on family literacy, early reading, and healthy living
- **English as a Second Language (ESL) classes**

**For more information:** <http://austin.avance.org>

### Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas

**Services offered to:** Children (ages 6 through 18)

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Mentoring programs** matching “Bigs” (adults) to “Littles” (children/youth), including community-based mentoring, a juvenile justice initiative, school-to-community

mentoring, middle school mentoring, and military mentoring for children of veterans (Travis, Williamson, and Hays counties)

- **Scholarship opportunities** up to \$4,000 per individual, available for youth maintaining long-term mentoring matches after age 14 when they graduate high school or receive a GED for use at any two- or four-year college, university, or accredited trade or technical school

**For more information:**

[http://www.bigmentoring.org/site/c.bkLVKdOQLjK6E/b.6458515/k.A217/So\\_many\\_ways\\_to\\_get\\_started.htm](http://www.bigmentoring.org/site/c.bkLVKdOQLjK6E/b.6458515/k.A217/So_many_ways_to_get_started.htm)

### Bluebonnet Trails Community Services\*

**Services offered to:** Children, youth, and adults with mental health needs or developmental disabilities; veterans; individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

**Brief description of services available:**

- Broad range of **mental health and developmental disabilities services** for diagnosed individuals and their families, including **behavioral health and psychiatry services** (e.g., targeted medication management for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness, individual and group counseling and therapy, case management and psychosocial rehabilitation), an **Autism Program**, **crisis services**, an **Intellectual Developmental Disabilities** program, **peer support services**, and **supportive employment** among others
- **Medical and dental healthcare** in Bastrop, Elgin, Giddings, Gonzales, Hutto, La Grange, Lockhart, and Seguin
- **Early Childhood Intervention Program (ECI)** for infants and toddlers up to 3 years of age with disabilities or delays
- **Military Veteran Peer Network chapter** that facilitates veteran peer groups to provide support and resources
- **Outreach-Screening-Assessment-Referral (OSAR) program and Bluebonnet Trails Recovery Program** for substance use services, support, and care
- **Supportive Housing and transitional services** for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

**For more information:** <http://bbtrails.org/services/>, 24-hour Crisis Hotline: 1-800-841-1255

## Cardea\*

**Services offered to:** Nonprofit professionals

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Training, organizational development, and evaluations for health and human services organizations** to better provide services to young men and fathers

**For more information:** <http://www.cardeaservices.org/>

## CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Travis County\*

**Services offered to:** Children and youth with a Child Protective Services (CPS) case appointed a CASA volunteer

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Educates community volunteers** to serve as a judicially-appointed advocate for children in a Child Protective Services case to advocate for the best interest of children involved with the Texas child welfare system

**For more information:** <http://www.casatravis.org/>

## Casey Family Programs\*

**Services offered to:** Families and youth referred by Child Protective Services; current and former foster youth

**Brief description of services available:**

- **In-home family-based prevention program** provides clinical case management, aimed at preventing children from entering the foster care system (referrals to services by Child Protective Services only)
- **Out-of-home permanency support services** helps older youth in the foster care system establish legal and relational permanency (referrals to services by Child Protective Services only)
- **Transition support services** for youth who have aged out of foster care, youth ages 18 to 21, including clinical case management and family finding practices (referrals to services by Lifeworks only)

**For more information:** <https://www.casey.org/who-we-are/locations/austin/#read-more>

### Catholic Diocese of Austin\*/Catholic Charities of Central Texas

**Services offered to:** Fathers; children, youth, adults, and families; low-income individuals or families; veterans

**Brief description of services available:**

- Catholic Diocese of Austin
  - **Marriage preparation and enrichment services** for Catholic couples
  - **Stephen Ministry**, a lay caring ministry that provides care and outreach to Catholics and non-Catholics
- Catholic Charities of Central Texas
  - **Counseling services** for children, families, couples, and individuals
  - **Financial Stability Program** provides case management, education, and emergency financial assistance to prevent homelessness for eligible families
  - **Gabriel Project Life Center** provides parenting supports to families expecting a child or those with a child under age two, including parenting education, dad's talk, material assistance, case management, and more
  - **Low-cost legal representation related to immigration** for low-income families
  - **St. Michael's Veteran Services** including short-term financial assistance, mentoring, counseling services, employment/education support, housing stabilization, transportation vouchers, referrals, and peer support groups

**For more information:** <https://austindiocese.org/family-life>, <https://www.ccctx.org/>

### Center for Child Protection

**Services offered to:** Children and youth affected by child maltreatment and their families

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Individual and family therapy** to children, teens, and their families
- **Intensive case management** for at-risk families to prevent child abuse or neglect
- **Family Advocate Program** to provide protective caregivers immediate crisis intervention, ongoing case management, and follow up
- **Protective Parenting Group** classes and group therapy, with simultaneous **Children's Activity Group**
- **Physical Abuse/Neglect Examination** and **Sexual Abuse Examination** for children and youth who have injuries that may have resulted from physical abuse or neglect or who may have experienced a sexual assault
- **Forensic interviews** for children and youth who may have experienced child maltreatment



- **Ongoing support, information, and referral** for families who have gone through the forensic interview process
- **Stewards of Children** evidence-informed sexual abuse prevention training program for professionals, parents, and other adults to prevent, recognize, and act responsibly toward child sexual abuse

For more information: <https://centerforchildprotection.org/>

### Central Texas Food Bank\*

**Services offered to:** Low-income children, youth, adults, and families

#### **Brief description of services available:**

- **Food pantry locations and mobile food pantry** for the Central Texas community
- **CHOICES Nutrition Education** free, simultaneous cooking classes for adults that includes a Breastfeeding Education program and gardening for children
  - Adults without children are welcome to attend
- **Fresh Food for Families** free, monthly distribution of fresh foods to low-income families
- **Assistance applying for SNAP benefits** by phone or in-person, appointments can be made online and walk-in appointments are available on Tuesdays
- **Culinary Training Program** free, 12-week program that combines classroom time and hands-on job training to teach basic culinary skills for eligible adults
- **Healthy Options Program for the Elderly (HOPE)** and **Commodity Supplemental Food Program** provides free, monthly distributions healthy, shelf-stable foods to low-income eligible seniors age 55+ and 60+
- **Kids Café sites** provide free, nutritious meals to children attending enrichment and after school programs at area schools and other programs

For more information: <https://www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/get-help>

### Child Inc.\*

**Services offered to:** Fathers; young children up to age 4 and their families who meet eligibility requirements; low-income expectant mothers who fulfill eligibility requirements

#### **Brief description of services available:**

- Father-focused programs:
  - **Fatherhood education** includes classes/workshops on personal development, father/child relationship, building relationships, and parenting skills
  - **Fathering With Purpose Roundtable** discussion groups the impact of fathers and father absenteeism on children

- The **Dad Show radio talk** show covering fatherhood from personal stories, research-based discussions, resource connections; allows dads to participate in studio productions and operations
- **Early Childhood Development program** provides a variety of services to children and families, including early childhood education (Early Head Start, Head Start, and home-based services), parent engagement activities, and mental health, disabilities, nutritional, medical, and social services at 16 centers, public school pre-k classrooms, and other child care sites and in-home services

For more information: <http://childinc.org/>

### City of Austin Mayor's Office

**Services offered to:** No direct services

**Brief description of services available:**

- Presides over City Council meetings, leads goals and policy priority processes

For more information: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/mayor>

### City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department\*

**Services offered to:** Children, youth, adults, and families

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Adult recreational leagues** for men, women, and co-ed teams including basketball, flag football, softball, and sand volleyball
- **Affordable afterschool care** for youth in elementary and middle schools
- **Art classes** for children, youth, and adults at the Dougherty Arts Center
- **Fitness in the Park** free classes to promote physical activity and health education
- **Full-day summer camp** is offered at more than 20 recreational facilities in Austin
- **Roving Leaders** teen outreach program for youth ages 12-18
- **Totally Cool Totally Art (TCTA)** free art classes for Austin's youth teen community
- **Walk with a Doc program** are health professional-led walks at a park or trail, and include free blood pressure checks and cholesterol screenings
- **Youth sports leagues** for children ages 3-12, including soccer, basketball, flag football, and more

For more information: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/parks-and-recreation>

## City of Austin Youth and Family Services/Youth Initiatives Office\*

**Services offered to:** High school youth

**Brief description of services available:**

- **High school summer internship programs** in Austin, including the Emerging Leaders, Get Ready! (STEAM-focused), Aviation Department, and Austin Convention Center Summer Internship Programs
- **AustinCorps** city education and leadership program for Austin high school that combines classroom curriculum on local government with hands-on experience at City Hall
- **Austin Youth Council**, a representative body of about 85 high school students who meet monthly to discuss issues of importance to youth and learn about city and local organizations

**For more information:** <http://www.austintexas.gov/kids>

## Communities in Schools

**Services offered to:** Eligible children and youth and their families

**Brief description of services available:**

- **On-campus Student Support** including crisis intervention, individual counseling or support groups, basic life skills, tutoring, mentoring, etc.
- **ASPIRE** (Achieving Success through Parental Involvement, Reading and Education) Family Literacy includes evidence-based parenting classes, early childhood education, adult education (GED, ESL, Computer literacy), Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visiting, and intergenerational literacy activities, among others
- **Care Coordination** wraparound services for Austin elementary and middle school families
- **Pebble Project** child abuse awareness training for children and adults
- **XY-Zone** leadership development and peer support program for high school-age, at-risk male youth in select Austin high schools

**For more information:** <http://ciscentraltexas.org/>

### Community Action Inc. of Central Texas\*

**Services offered to:** Fathers; eligible youth, children, adults, and families in Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, and Williamson counties

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Texas Home Visiting Program – Hays County** serves pregnant women and parents of children birth to age five by teaching parenting skills for their children’s school readiness using the Parents as Teachers curriculum
- **Dedicated Dads Group** fatherhood support group where fathers can connect and grow
- **Fatherhood Facebook page** for Central Texas fathers to engage with and encourage each other
- **Father-focused, community-based events** that include father-friendly activities
- **The “Celebrating Fatherhood!” and “Celebrating Families!” conferences** are annual meetings geared toward fathers in Hays County
- **Adult education classes, including** English as a Second Language (ESL), English and Literacy Civics (E. L. Civics), and High School Equivalency (HSE) classes
- **Career Pathways for Central Texans program** provides workforce education, career counseling, financial aid workshops, and college readiness preparation
- **Head Start and Early Head Start** programming
- **Primary Health Care** for uninsured, low-income community members
- **Utility Assistance** for eligible families who apply for services

**For more information:** <http://communityaction.com/texas-home-visiting/>,  
<http://communityaction.com/father-engagement/>,  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1500035733628747/>,  
<https://www.facebook.com/texashomevisitinghayscounty>,  
<http://celebratefatherhood.com/> (coming soon)

### El Buen Samaritano\*

**Services offered to:** Children, youth, adults, and families

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Broad medical services, counseling, and disease management** for eligible individuals and families
- **Adult education classes**, including English as a second language, basic education classes conducted in Spanish, and computer literacy classes
- **Support groups** for different populations, including women, the elderly, and persons with diabetes

- **Six months of emergency food assistance**, offered through a food pantry
- **Health education** including wellness, health screenings, nutrition, diabetes management, women's health, reproductive/ sexual health, support for caregivers, and healthy kids programming
- **Youth services and education**, such as evening academic supports and summer camps
- **Parent supports**, including Play to Learn workshops for parents of children ages 2-4 years (partnering with KLRU and the United Way for Greater Austin) and PALS (Play and Learning Strategies) for parents of children 18 months to 4 years old

For more information: <https://elbuen.org/>

### EngenderHealth\*

**Services offered to:** Young parents hired as peer educators; youth in select schools

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Re:MIX** hires and trains young fathers as peer educators to deliver sexual health education to peers
- **Sexual health education** provided in select schools

For more information: <https://www.engenderhealth.org/youth/>

### Goodwill Central Texas\*

**Services offered to:** Adults ages 17-50 years

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Workforce advancement programs** include case management, career advancement training classes, financial literacy, interview coaching, educational programs, internship opportunities, and occupational or technical certification programs
- The **Excel Center** is a TEA-approved, adult charter high school that serves adults ages 17-50, offers students the option of earning their high school diploma, and provides additional support services such as free child care, transportation vouchers and more
- The **Goodwill Career and Technical Academy** offers the opportunity to attend occupational training and earn state recognized credentials in high demand occupations such as nurse aid, HVAC, CDL, electrician helper, and more

For more information: <https://www.goodwillcentraltexas.org/education-job-training>,  
<https://www.goodwillcentraltexas.org/excel-center>,  
<https://www.goodwillcentraltexas.org/excel-center/goodwill-career-technical-academy>

## Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church\*

**Services offered to:** Fathers; children, youth, adults, and families

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Mentoring men** to become fully engaged husbands, fathers, employees, and community leaders
- **Mentoring for youth** aims to connect under-fathered boys/girls to compassionate men/women determined to support them in reaching their God-given potential
- **Relationship classes and counseling** for engaged and married couples
- **Resources to address basic needs including a food pantry, utility or rent assistance, or clothing assistance**
- **Celebrate Recovery** 12-step process community groups

**For more information:** <http://www.gmzaustin.org/>

## Housing Authority of the City of Austin\*

**Services offered to:** HACA residents (eligibility information available on HACA website)

**Brief description of services available:**

- **iDADS program** (Involved Dads of Action Developing and Succeeding) includes parenting, communication, conflict resolution, anger management, and job readiness education and support
- **Public housing**, including public and subsidized housing, the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV, Section 8), and the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program
- **Family Self-Sufficiency Program** links residents of public housing and HCV programs to support services such as GED classes, trainings (e.g., financial, computer, job), work placement services, and child care and transportation assistance

**For more information:** <https://www.hacanet.org/>, <https://www.facebook.com/IDADSATX/>

## Islamic Center of Greater Austin

**Services offered to:** Eligible Muslim adults or families

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Emergency financial assistance** is available through the Greater Austin Muslim Relief Committee for families in need and Muslim refugees in the Greater Austin, Pflugerville, Round Rock, and Cedar Park areas

**For more information:** <https://austinmosque.org/>, <https://austinmosque.org/gamrc/>

## KLRU-TV, Austin PBS\*

Does not provide direct services

Local PBS member station airs [PBS Kids programming](#) and a [variety of educational and entertaining programs](#). PBS also provides information for [parents](#).

**Brief Description of Supported Services Available through Partner Organizations:**

- **Play to Learn™** is a 10 week (2 hours/week) program for parents and children ages 2-4 to practice fun activities that contribute to school readiness
- **Ready to Learn** is evening workshops for parents and kids ages 5-8 for 4 weeks that focus on developing curiosity and scientific reasoning (program includes a meal)
- **Smart Screen Time®/La Pantalla Inteligente®** is a one-time workshop for parents and children ages 5-18 on home screen practices and how to develop healthy habits
- **Start Smart Texas** public service announcements created by Texas PBS and Texas United Way to support the Start Smart Texas initiative led by the Texas Education Agency
- **Bright By Text** free texting tool for parents and caregivers of children under eight years of age sends between two and five text messages per week to the caregivers' phones with parenting tips, activity ideas, and information about local events and resources based on the age of their child(ren)
  - Parents can sign up on the [web form](#), text SMARTATX to 274448 (BRIGHT)

**For more information:** <http://www.klrutv.org/blog/tag/play-learn/>, <https://www.klrutv.org/blog/2017/11/klru-and-community-partners-host-family-creative-learning-workshops/>, <http://www.klrutv.org/education/smart-screen-time/>

### LifeSteps Council on Alcohol & Drugs\*

**Services offered to:** Expectant fathers or fathers with a child under 6 years of age and who have an open CPS case; participants referred by the Court, probation, or Department of Public Safety due to an alcohol or drug offense

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Parenting Awareness and Drug Risk Education (PADRE)** program provides parenting classes and case management services to expecting, new, and current fathers who meet eligibility requirements
- **Educational classes** for participants referred by the Court, probation, or Department of Public Safety due to an alcohol or drug offense

**For more information:** <http://lifestepsCouncil.org/p-a-d-r-e-program/>

### LifeWorks\*

**Services offered to:** Eligible youth and family

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Affordable/free mental health counseling** for individuals and families, including community based counseling, shared psychiatric services, resolution counseling, and youth and adult counseling
- **Education and workforce programs**, including GED and High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), workforce development, and teen parent services
- **Housing programs for runaway and homeless youth, young parents, and youth aging out of the foster care system**, including Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Living Program, Rapid Rehousing Program, Young Parents Program, Permanent Supportive Housing Program, Aftercare Transitional Services, and Life Skills Training

**For more information:** <http://www.lifeworksaustin.org/>

### Literacy Coalition of Central Texas

**Services offered to:** Adults, parents/caregivers of young children

**Brief description of services available:**

- Partners with businesses for their **English @ Work program**, sending instructors into workplaces to teach English across Central Texas
- **The PALS program** is a 14-session bilingual parenting program teaching parents of preschool-age children how to support children's cognitive and social-emotional



development to improve school readiness; offered in partnership with the Allan Center, Any Baby Can, Manos de Cristo, and Si Se Puede Learning Center

- **The Learning Center** offers free, adult basic education classes, including support services for students to overcome barriers that may make program participation difficult
- **Career development services**, including literacy, English as a second language, and job readiness services

**For more information:** <https://willread.org/>, for more information on the learning center: (512) 326-8655 ext. 107 or [learningcenter@willread.org](mailto:learningcenter@willread.org)

### Manos de Cristo

**Services offered to:** Low-income children and adults in the Austin area who meet eligibility requirements

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Reduced fee dental care** through their dental center, including both routine and general dental services
- **Free school supplies and clothing** provided to 400 children pre-k through 5<sup>th</sup> grade as a part of their back-to-school program each summer
- **Low-cost educational classes**, including computer, ESL, citizenship, and adult basic education classes (in Spanish)
- **Basic needs services**, including a food pantry and clothes closet

**For more information:** <http://www.manosdecristo.org/programs.html>

### Military Veteran Peer Network\* (The Samaritan Center)

**Services offered to:** Service members, veterans, and immediate family members

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Hope for Heroes** program provides counseling and integrative medicine to current service members, veterans, and military families suffering from service-related trauma
- **Veteran appointment phone line** (512-466-4454) and a crisis hotline
- **Military Veteran Peer Network chapter** that facilitates veteran peer groups to provide support and resources

**For more information:** <https://samaritan-center.org/veteran-military-services/>, [http://www.milvetpeer.net/page/custompage\\_FAQ](http://www.milvetpeer.net/page/custompage_FAQ), Crisis Hotline 1-800-273-8255

### National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Austin\*

**Services offered to:** Children, youth, and adults living with mental illness or behavioral health concerns, and their families

**Brief description of services available:**

- **NAMI Basics Class** free, 6-week education program for parents and caregivers of children and teens experiencing signs or with a diagnosis of behavioral or mental health concerns
- **NAMI Family-to-Family Class** free, 12-week session education program for family, partners, friends, and significant others of adults living with mental illness
- **NAMI Peer-to-Peer Class** free, 10-session educational program for adults with mental illness who are looking to better understand their condition and journey toward recovery
- **NAMI Family Support Group** peer-led support group for family members, caregivers, and loved ones of individuals living with mental illness
- **NAMI Connection Recovery Support Groups** are free, peer-led support groups for adults living with mental illness

**For more information:** <https://www.namiaustin.org/education/>,  
<https://www.namiaustin.org/support/>

### Office of the Attorney General, Child Support Division\*

**Services offered to:** Eligible custodial and noncustodial parents; high school students

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Full-service child support services** assist noncustodial parents to establish the legal bond between themselves and their child, ensures financial support to the child and access and visitation for the noncustodial parent
- Online and print resources, such as the **Maps for New Dads** publication (tips on caring for a new baby), information on seeking child support in a situation of family violence, as well as information on child support and establishing paternity
- **NCP Choices** partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission that provides under- or unemployed noncustodial parents with one-on-one employment services
- The **p.a.p.a. (Parenting and Paternity Awareness) program** provides preventative education targeting high school students regarding the rights, realities, and responsibilities of parenthood

**For more information:** <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs>, <http://txaccess.org/>,  
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs/child-support-publications>,  
Access and Visitation Hotline 1-866-292-4636 (English and Spanish)

### People's Community Clinic\*

**Services offered to:** Eligible children, youth, adults, and families

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Center for Adolescent Health** offers primary healthcare, family planning, reproductive health, and behavioral health services for teens and young adults
- **Tandem Teen Prenatal & Parenting Program** offers wraparound services for pregnant and parenting teens (including intensive case management, mental health services, medical care and prenatal care, child development, family planning, and parenting education); currently seeking funding to offer specialized services for young fathers
- **General adult medicine** including primary healthcare and additional services through their Chronic Disease Management Program, Integrated Behavioral Health, Nutrition Program, and Patient Pharmaceutical Assistance Program
- **Pediatric care**, including developmental assessments, and
- **Prenatal care, family planning, and breastfeeding services**
- **Reach Out and Reach Program** for promotion of early literacy

**For more information:** <https://www.austinpcc.org/our-programs/>

### Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, Inc.\*

**Services offered to:** Youth, and adults

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Affordable medical care for women, men, and teens** at health clinics
- **Healthcare services** include birth control (and emergency contraception), cancer screenings, STD testing and treatment, HIV testing and counseling, HPV vaccinations and testing, broad men and women's preventative and sexual health care services, pregnancy testing, abortion services, transgender healthcare, and more

**For more information:** <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-greater-texas>

### SAFE Alliance\*

**Services offered to:** Fathers (expecting and current); male survivors of sexual or domestic violence; children, youth, adults, and families

**Brief description of services available:**

- For men:
  - **Fatherhood Specialist** provides child-abuse prevention services works one-on-one with fathers, facilitates a fatherhood group, and provides home visits and wrap around services through Project HOPES
  - **Individual Counseling** for male survivors of sexual or domestic violence
  - **Men’s Survivor Support Group** for male survivors of sexual or domestic violence
- For families:
  - **Care Academy** offers high-quality affordable child care
  - **Foster & Adopt program** provides foster care, adoption services, and kinship care
  - **Parent-Child Specialist** provides free, one-on-one services for parenting education, partner support, and connections with resources
  - **PlanetSafe** provides a safe location for supervised visitations and custodial exchanges of children whose families have a history of family violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault
  - **Project HOPES** is a partnership between SAFE, Any Baby Can, Easter Seals, Untied Way, and Community Sync to strengthen families by providing intensive home visitation, parent and fatherhood education, and support for families with children up to 5 years of age in Travis and Williamson counties
    - **Strong Start** early childhood services and family supports (e.g., therapeutic early childhood program, parent education, crisis intervention, mental health services, etc.) for parents of children five and younger
    - **Protective Parenting Classes** and **Domestic Violence 101** for Austin-area adults served by SAFE or referred by CPS, local courts, or other agencies
- **A broad array of services for survivors of sexual and domestic violence**, including counseling, legal advocacy, a 16-week Life Skills Program, and free forensic exams
- **SafePlace Campus** and the **Austin Children’s Shelter Campus** provide shelter to families affected by domestic violence, and sexual assault and exploitation

**For more information:** <http://www.safeaustin.org/safeprograms/>,

Online referral form for Strong Start: <http://www.safeaustin.org/safeprograms/strong-start/project-hopes-referral-form/>

**24/7 SAFELINE** is available by phone at 512-267-SAFE (7233) and text at 737-888-7233

### Samaritan Center

**Services offered to:** Children, youth, adults, and families; Military service members, veterans and military families

**Brief description of services available:**

- For military service members, veterans, and military families:
  - **Evidence-based trauma treatment approaches** including EMDR, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Moral Injury approaches
  - **Hope for Heroes** counseling and integrative medicine
  - **Military Veteran Peer Network** provides mentorship, guidance, and help accessing services and resources
  - **Standing Strong: A Therapy Group for Women Veterans and Service Members** who have experienced sexual assault
- **For adults and families**
  - **Individual counseling** including cognitive behavioral therapy, career counseling, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), pastoral or spiritual counseling, solutions focused counseling, somatic counseling
  - **Couples and family counseling**
  - **Integrative medicine** including acupuncture, Chinese and western herbal medicine, nutrition counseling, and tai chi
- **For children and youth**
  - **Child and youth counseling** through sandtray therapy, play therapy, incorporating art into counseling, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), TF-CBT (Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy), Somatic Experiencing, and parent coaching and positive discipline workshops

**For more information:** <https://samaritan-center.org/>

### Seton Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas

**Services offered to:** AISD students ages 3 to 22, parents, AISD staff

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Children's/AISD Student Health Services**, in partnership with AISD, provides health care for students during school hours for students ages 3 to 22, including: illness and injury care, medication administration, immunization compliance, provision of state-mandated screenings, case management, school mental health centers, health education, collaboration with other partners, and crisis intervention

- **Children’s Health Express**, a mobile clinic program, provides primary and preventive pediatric care to children who lack a medical home, including: well child exams, immunizations, treatment for minor illness, and sports physicals
- **Safety and injury prevention services**, including Kids In Cars (car seat installation assistance and inspection) and the Simply Safety Store (safety items can be purchased at-cost or for a low-cost)

**For more information:** <https://www.dellchildrens.net/services-and-programs/aisd-student-health-services/>

### Shalom Austin

**Services offered to:** Jewish individuals and families in the Austin area

**Brief description of services available:**

- **PJ Library** program offers free, age-appropriate books and CDs for children ages 6 months-8 years old
- **PJ Our Way** program provides free books for children ages 9 – 11
- **Shabbat N’Play** drop-in playtime Friday mornings at the Jewish Community Center for children ages 0-3
- **Jewish Family Service** provides social services to the Austin Jewish community and community-at-large, including an array of counseling, support, and discussion groups; senior adult services; disability services; and emergency financial assistance for basic needs (rent, mortgage, utilities, and food)
- **JFAMs – Jewish Families on Facebook** page for families with children ages 0 & up

**For more information:** <https://shalomaustin.org/home>,  
<https://shalomaustin.org/parentingprograms>

### St. David’s Foundation\*

**No direct services**

**Brief Description of Funded Programming:**

- Provides grants to local nonprofit partners to provide health services in the Austin area

**For more information:** <https://stdavidsfoundation.org/>

## Strengthening Relationships/Strengthening Families at Texas State University-San Marcos

**Services offered to:** Teen parents at select high schools in the Central Texas area

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Healthy relationship education**
- **Co-parenting education**
- **Life skills education**, including financial literacy, workforce, and time management
- **Individual case management**

**For more information:** <http://www.fcs.txstate.edu/srsfprogram.html>

## Sustainable Food Center

**Services offered to:** Adults, children, and families who meet eligibility requirements and the general community

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Community food gardening classes** offered for free in English or Spanish in communities facing health and disparities and food insecurity
- **Spread the Harvest** program provides Central Texas schools, low-income residents, and not-for-profit gardens with free gardening materials
- **The Happy Kitchen/La Cocina Alegre®** offers a six-week series of community cooking and nutrition classes covering preparation of nutritious, seasonal, and affordable meals in communities facing health disparities (in English or Spanish)

**For more information:** <https://sustainablefoodcenter.org/programs>

## Texas Advocacy Project

**Services offered to:** Survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Toll-free legal help line** to provide help with legal concerns related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking
- **Online resources** on domestic and dating violence, types of abuse, protective orders, and more

**For more information:** <http://www.texasadvocacyproject.org/> Help line: 800-374-HOPE

### Texas Council on Family Violence\*

**Services offered to:** Survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Battering Intervention & Prevention Programs (BIPP)** are groups for family violence offenders, teaching healthy relationship and parenting skills
- Maintains an **online domestic violence-related resource center and Service Directory**
- Partners with domestic violence and fatherhood groups

**For more information:** <http://tcfv.org/>

### Texas Department of Family and Protective Services\*

**Services offered to:** Children, youth, adults, and families

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Resources for parents** such as Help and Hope and parent education materials (e.g., safe sleep education, tips for watching kids around water, etc.)
- **Resources for youth** such as the Texas Youth Hotline and the Texas Youth Connection
- A **parent collaboration/support group** led by a parent previously involved with DFPS
- **Manages a broad range of services and programs** for children and families, including Child Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention (including Texas Home Visiting), adult protection, child care, adoption and foster care, and more

**For more information:** <https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/>,

Texas Youth Hotline: phone – 1-800-989-6884, text – 512-872-5777 or online chat

([http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Youth\\_Hotline/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Youth_Hotline/default.asp)),

Texas Youth Connection: <https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/>

### Texas RioGrande Legal Aid\*

**Services offered to:** Eligible individuals and families

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Free civil/legal assistance** in the areas of colonias and real estate, civil rights, environmental justice, labor and employment, public benefits, disaster assistance, federally subsidized housing, foreclosure, bankruptcy, wills and estates, border issues, human trafficking, etc. for low-income residents in 68 counties in Southwest Texas and provides representation to migrant and seasonal farm workers throughout the state



- **Social work assistance** helps victims of domestic violence with applications to the Texas Crime Victims Compensation (CVC) fund
- **Evening legal clinics** provide free legal advice (Mondays: Martin Middle School, Wednesdays: Webb Middle School)

**For more information:** <http://www.trla.org/>, phone: 1-888-988-9996 (contact prior to legal clinics to confirm the clinic is not canceled)

### The Austin Project

**Services offered to:** Children, youth, and families in 16 AISD campuses and 13 target neighborhoods

#### **Brief description of services available:**

- **Family Resource Centers (FRC)**, based in Martin Middle School and Mendez Middle School, are school-based family-friendly gathering places that:
  - Hold monthly Community School Alliance meetings,
  - Provide workshops and classes through parent/adult academies that meet needs identified by participating families,
  - Connect and refer families with local resources;
  - FRCs provide support to children, youth, and families in 16 AISD campuses in the Martin and Mendez feeder patterns
- Provide and support **coordinated school health and wellness initiatives**, through FRCs and health fairs, health screening, immunizations, mental health services and counseling, nutrition and cooking workshops, physical activities, and more
- Provides **Parent Transition Workshops** for parents of children transitioning into Webb, Mendez, and Martin Middle Schools

**For more information:** <http://www.theaustinproject.org/initiatives.html>

### The Man in Me\*

**Services offered to:** Fathers and men in the Austin area

#### **Brief description of services available:**

- **The Man in Me Men Talk program** consists of workshops for men designed to engage and bring self-awareness
- **Fatherhood and parenting education** sessions using the 24/7 Dad curriculum
- **Anger management classes**

**For more information:** <https://www.themaninme.org/>

## Travis County Domestic Relations Office\*

**Services offered to:** Separating or divorcing parents, noncustodial and custodial parents in Travis County

### Brief description of services available

- **Travis County Cooperative Parenting Program (CPP)**, a free, comprehensive nine-hour series of six coparenting classes focusing on the needs of children and parents in the aftermath of a separation or divorce (classes are offered Wednesdays for non-custodial parents and Thursdays for custodial parents from 3:00 to 4:00 pm)
- **Visitation Services Program** offers dispute resolution, education, referrals to community resources, and legal intervention when appropriate for noncustodial parents who are being denied access to their children
- **Kids Exchange Network** is a network of private providers who assist families with parenting time issues
- As **Guardians ad Litem**, provide referrals and supports for parents on improving the relationship with their children and working towards getting off supervised visitation
- **Collection and disbursement** of child support payments
- **Enforcement of child support and medical support orders** issued in Travis County

**For more information:** <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/dro/parenting-class> (includes registration information), <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/dro/family-court>

## Travis County Family Drug Treatment Court

**Services offered to:** Parents who are struggling with problems of alcohol/ drug addiction, are involved in the Child Protective Services Civil Court system of Travis County, and have children under age five in the home, among other eligibility criteria; fathers are eligible to participate if the mother of their child(ren) meets the eligibility criteria

### Brief description of services available:

- **Inpatient and outpatient substance abuse treatment**
- **Psychiatric & psychological evaluation & care**
- **Individual & family counseling**
- **Collaborative case management with program partners**
- **One-on-one parenting skills training**
- **One-on-one recovery skills training**
- **Supportive transitional & permanent housing**
- **Child-care assistance**
- **Mental health services**

- **Medical, dental, eye care, & pharmacy services**
- **Educational & employment support**
- **Social, emotional, & developmental assessment of and treatment** for children of all ages
- **Comprehensive treatment plan** to meet all medical, developmental, educational, and psychological needs of the children
- **Specialized services for children**
- **Concrete services for children** such as limited assistance to purchase furniture, diapers, formula, and other household needs

**For more information:** <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/health-human-services/children-and-youth/welfare/family-drug-court>

### Travis County Office of Children Services\*

**Services offered to:** Children, youth, adults, and families in Travis County

#### **Brief description of services available:**

- **Healthy Families Travis County** is a voluntary, home visiting program that provides services prenatally through when the child is three years old to first-time parents in Travis County using a Healthy Families America curriculum
- **Travis County Children F.I.R.S.T.** is a voluntary, strength-based home visiting program in Travis County for families who are involved with Child Protective Services providing case management and resource referral services
- **Community Partners for Children** community group meets with families with children who have complex needs to create an individualized plan to support the child and family
- **TRIAD** provides placement assistance and support services to Travis County families of youth ages 8 to 17 who require out-of-home placements to ensure their safety and emotional well-being
- The **Children's Partnership** provides wraparound services and supports to children and youth ages 5-17 with complex mental health needs and their families (see website for additional eligibility and referral information)

**For more information:** <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/health-human-services/divisions/office-children-services>

### Travis County Office of Parental Representation\*

**Services offered to:** Eligible, low-income parents in Travis County who have had their children removed or are at risk of having their children removed by DFPS

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Legal representation and case management/support services** to parents who have had their children removed or who are at risk of having their children removed by DFPS due to allegations of abuse and/or neglect

**For more information:** <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/criminal-justice/parental-representation>

### United Way for Greater Austin\*

**No direct services provided outside of 2-1-1 Navigation Center and Baby Box distribution**

**Brief Description of Supported Services Available through Partner Organizations:**

- **Family Connects program** provides a universal nurse home visitor for all families with newborns in a geographic area
- **Success by 6 program** provides backbone support for family support agencies, including work supporting local early care and education centers, early language coaches serving child care centers, Play to Learn (with KLRU-TV and other community partners), Project HOPES (with SAFE Alliance), and more
- **2-1-1 Navigation Center** maintains a database of government and nonprofit services, accessible through the 2-1-1 hotline via call specialists or their [online database](#)
- **Start Smart Texas** public service announcements created by Texas PBS and Texas United Way to support the Start Smart Texas initiative led by the Texas Education Agency
- **Bright By Text** free texting tool for parents and caregivers of children under eight years of age sends between two and five text messages per week to the caregivers' phones with parenting tips, activity ideas, and information about local events and resources based on the age of their child(ren)
  - Parents can sign up on the [web form](#) or text SMARTATX to 274448 (BRIGHT)
- **Baby Box** distribution site, which provides free, portable, safe sleeping solutions for infants between birth and six months to new or expecting parents who complete the [Texas Baby Box University curriculum](#) and bring their completion certificate to United Way for Greater Austin on Thursdays between 11:00am and 1:00pm

**For more information:** <http://www.unitedwayaustin.org/>; the 2-1-1 Hotline can be reached by calling 211 or (877) 541-7905, <http://www.211texas.org/>, or the 2-1-1 app

## VELA Families

**Services offered to:** Children and youth with special needs, and their families

**Brief description of services available:**

- Family Empowerment program includes:
  - **5 different caregiver courses**, including Special Education in the School, Autism, and Taking Care of You courses
  - **Monthly caregiver support groups**
  - **Supportive case management** with VELA's social worker
  - **Family Fun Days** for theme-based activities for children of all abilities

**For more information:** <http://velafamilies.org/>

## Workforce Solutions Capital Area\*

**Services offered to:** Eligible youth, adults, and families in Travis County

**Brief description of services available:**

- **Services for job seekers**, including:
  - **Career centers** to assist in finding a job, building a resume, preparing for an interview, Unemployment Insurance, and more; services are available for individuals with disabilities and veterans
  - **Training programs** including Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF)/Choices, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) employment and training, Workforce Education Readiness Continuum (WREC), and Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) services
  - **NCP Choices**, one-on-one employment services for under- or unemployed noncustodial parents, in partnership with the Office of the Attorney General, Child Support Division
- **Subsidized child care referrals** in the Austin area
- **Youth Employment Partnership** includes GED or high school equivalency preparation, alternative secondary school services, tutoring and study skills training, career counseling, leadership skills development, job skills training, and employment opportunities and paid work experience for low income youth aged 14-21

**For more information:** <http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/>

## Appendix C: Central Texas Fatherhood Kick-Off Conversation Commitment Pledge

### Supporting Fatherhood in Austin

Please select one or more of the following:

I commit to:

- Attending the next Austin fatherhood meeting
- Inviting a colleague or potential stakeholder to attend the next meeting
- Providing information about my organization's programs or programs I know to build an Austin fatherhood resource directory
- Taking a leadership role in this group

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix D: Organizations Represented in the Central Texas Fatherhood Coalition

1. 126<sup>th</sup> Civil District Court
2. Austin Independent School District
3. AVANCE Austin
4. Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
5. Cardea
6. CASA of Travis County
7. Casey Family Programs
8. Catholic Diocese of Austin, Family Life Office
9. Center for Child Protection
10. Central Texas Food Bank
11. Child and Family Research Partnership
12. Child, Inc.
13. City of Austin, Mayor's Office
14. City of Austin, Parks and Recreation Department
15. City of Austin, Youth & Family Services
16. Community Action Inc. of Central Texas
17. Department of Family and Protective Services, Child Protective Services
18. El Buen Samaritano
19. EngenderHealth
20. Goodwill Central Texas
21. Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church
22. Housing Authority of the City of Austin
23. KLRU
24. Life Steps Council
25. Military Veteran Peer Network
26. National Alliance on Mental Illness Austin
27. Office of the Attorney General, Child Support Division, Family Initiatives
28. OneStar Foundation
29. Parents as Teachers
30. People's Community Clinic
31. Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas
32. SAFE Alliance
33. St. David's Foundation
34. Strengthening Relationships/Strengthening Families
35. Texas Council on Family Violence
36. Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc.
37. The Man In Me
38. Travis County Domestic Relations Office
39. Travis County Family Drug Treatment Court
40. Travis County Office of Children Services
41. Travis County Office of Parental Representation
42. United Way for Greater Austin
43. Workforce Solutions Capital Area

# THE EVIDENCE-BASE: PREDICTORS OF FATHER INVOLVEMENT

**A positive co-parenting relationship with their child's mother is strongly associated with both the quantity and quality of father involvement.**<sup>1,2</sup> When mothers support fathers' relationships with their children and parents can cooperate with and support one another in raising their child, fathers see their children more, engage in more activities with them, and have more positive relationships with them.<sup>3,4,5</sup> The quality of parents' relationships also matter: mothers who have positive relationships with their children's fathers are more likely to have positive co-parenting relationships with them.<sup>6</sup> As a result, fathers who are in romantic relationships with their children's mothers are consistently more likely to be involved with their children<sup>7,8</sup> and to have higher-quality involvement<sup>9</sup> than fathers who have no relationship with their children's mothers.<sup>10</sup>

**Fathers' parenting skills and confidence are important predictors of father involvement.** When fathers feel competent<sup>11</sup> and believe that they can parent well,<sup>12</sup> they spend more time with their children, take on more caretaking responsibilities, and engage more positively with their children.<sup>13,14</sup> Increasing the amount of time they spend with their children allows fathers to build more parenting skills and efficacy;<sup>15,16</sup> in turn, having parenting skills and efficacy is linked to increased involvement.<sup>17</sup>

**Fathers who have positive beliefs about fatherhood and the importance of father involvement are more engaged with their children.**<sup>18</sup> On an individual level, fathers who understand and value their identity as fathers are more involved with their children and have higher-quality relationships with them.<sup>19,20</sup> Research also suggests that men with more self-esteem and egalitarian beliefs about gender roles are more involved with their children because they are more willing to take part in caregiving and nurturing.<sup>21</sup> Community cultures that express the norm that fathers are valuable and equal co-parents also contribute to fathers' positive beliefs about fatherhood. Fathering and views of fathering are shaped in part by the broader community, including cultural norms, social support, and institutional practices.<sup>22</sup>

**Economic stability is linked to fathers' involvement with their children,** particularly among fathers who view their role as a father as the provider.<sup>23,24</sup> Among fathers who live with their children, men who are unemployed or feel that they are inadequate providers are less involved with their children and use fewer positive parenting behaviors.<sup>25</sup>

Nonresident fathers who provide either formal or informal support tend to have more contact with their children; furthermore, nonresident fathers who have more contact with their children tend to provide more informal support.<sup>26</sup> In contrast, child support arrears can reduce fathers' willingness or ability to engage with their children and the consequences of child support debt can inhibit fathers' ability to spend time with their children and to regain economic stability.<sup>27</sup>

**There are also a number of risk factors that predict lower father involvement.**<sup>28</sup> Fathers with a history of incarceration,<sup>29,30</sup> abusive behavior,<sup>31</sup> or drug and alcohol problems<sup>32</sup> are less likely to have positive interactions or maintain contact with their children over time. Other risk factors for low father involvement include multipartner fertility<sup>33</sup> depressive symptoms,<sup>34</sup> stress,<sup>35</sup> unintended pregnancy or low prenatal involvement,<sup>36</sup> and young age at the birth of the child.<sup>37</sup> However, fathers' resilience (e.g., employment, completion of education, family and social support) in the context of these risk factors is associated with fathers' involvement with their children.<sup>38</sup>





# THE EVIDENCE-BASE: PREDICTORS OF FATHER INVOLVEMENT

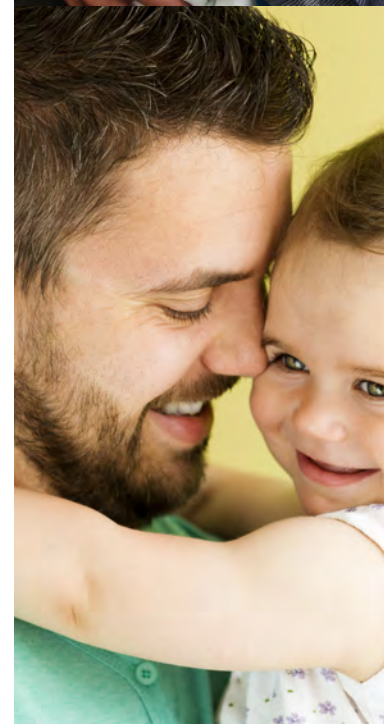
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# THE EVIDENCE-BASE: PREDICTORS OF FATHERS' VALUE, PARENTING SKILLS, AND KNOWLEDGE

**Fathers' parenting skills and confidence are important predictors of father involvement.** Regardless of whether or not they live with their children, when fathers feel competent<sup>1</sup> and believe that they can parent well,<sup>2</sup> they spend more time with their children, take on more caretaking responsibilities, and engage more positively with their children.<sup>3,4</sup> Increasing the amount of time they spend with their children allows fathers to build more parenting skills and efficacy;<sup>5,6</sup> in turn, having parenting skills and efficacy is linked to increased involvement.<sup>7</sup>

**Fathers who have positive beliefs about fatherhood and the importance of father involvement are more engaged with their children.**<sup>8</sup> On an individual level, fathers who understand and value their identity as fathers are more involved with their children and have higher-quality relationships with them.<sup>9,10</sup> Research also suggests that men with more self-esteem and egalitarian beliefs about gender roles are more involved with their children because they are more willing to take part in caregiving and nurturing.<sup>11</sup>

**Community cultures that express the norm that fathers are valuable and equal co-parents contribute to fathers' positive beliefs about fatherhood.** Fathering and views of fathering are shaped not only by fathers, mothers, and children, but also by the broader community, including cultural norms, social support, and institutions.<sup>12,13</sup> Because cultural norms around fatherhood are less clearly defined than those around motherhood,<sup>14</sup> fathers may receive conflicting messages about fathers' value and role. Commonly, highly involved and caregiving fathers are viewed with suspicion or are marginalized in the workplace<sup>15,16,17</sup> and formal and informal child care settings.<sup>18,19</sup> As a result, all fathers receive the message that father caregiving and involvement are norm violations, and that highly involved fathers do not fit in to the broader society.<sup>20</sup> By giving information and developing policies, communities can create norms that confer value to and normalize father involvement.<sup>21,22</sup>



## THE EVIDENCE-BASE: PREDICTORS OF FATHERS' VALUE, PARENTING SKILLS, AND KNOWLEDGE

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# Parenting Check-In for Dads

**CHILD & FAMILY**  
RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
LBJ SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT YOU AND YOUR EXPERIENCES, BELIEFS, AND ACTIONS AS A PARENT. PLEASE ANSWER THE QUESTIONS HONESTLY AND COMPLETELY. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS. FOR EACH QUESTION, INDICATE YOUR ANSWER BY COLORING IN THE BUBBLE NEXT TO THE OPTION THAT BEST APPLIES TO YOU.

1. Today's date (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is YOUR name (First, Last)? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you consider yourself to be (select all that apply):
  - Hispanic origin, Latino, or Mexican
  - African-American or black
  - Asian
  - Native American
  - White, non-Hispanic
  - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many children are you a father or father figure to? \_\_\_\_\_ Of these children, how many live with you? \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE CHILD, PLEASE ANSWER THIS SURVEY THINKING OF YOUR YOUNGEST CHILD.

5. Were you present at your youngest child's birth?  Yes  No
6. Does your youngest child live with you all or most of the time?  Yes → **SKIP TO QUESTION #8**  No
7. In the last 30 days, how often did you engage in the following activities with your youngest child?
 

	Every day	4-5 times per week	2-3 times per week	1-2 times per week	2-3 times in the last 30 days	1 time in the last 30 days	Did not happen in the last 30 days
Talk on the phone or FaceTime, send a letter/birthday card, text, or use social media to communicate?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
See one another in person?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spend nights in the same residence?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. In the last 30 days, how often have you engaged in the following activities with your youngest child?
 

	Usually	Often	Sometimes	Hardly Ever	Never	N/A at My Child's Age
Feed or have meals with your child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Watch over or care for your child for when other adults are not around	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help your child learn new things or help with homework	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Read books with or read to your child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Play with toys or games with your child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hug or show physical affection to your child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tell your child that you love her/him	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Encourage your child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. **In the last 30 days, when you spent time with your youngest child, how often did you use the following strategies to get him or her to do what you thought your child should do?**

	Usually	Often	Sometimes	Hardly Ever	Never	N/A at My Child's Age
Explained to your child why something s/he did was wrong	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spanked or used physical punishment with your child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shouted, yelled, screamed at, or threatened your child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rewarded or praised your child when s/he used good behavior	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Took privileges away from or grounded your child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. **Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I share an affectionate, warm relationship with my child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child and I always seem to be struggling with each other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If upset, my child will seek comfort from me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child is uncomfortable with physical affection or touch from me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child values her/his relationship with me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
When I praise my child, s/he beams with pride	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child spontaneously shares information about herself/himself	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child easily becomes angry at me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is easy to be in tune with what my child is feeling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child remains angry or is resistant after being disciplined	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dealing with my child drains my energy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
When my child is in a bad mood, I know we're in for a long and difficult day	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child's feelings toward me can be unpredictable or can change suddenly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child is sneaky or manipulative with me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child openly shares her/his feelings and experiences with me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. **Do you currently work for pay? Include military service and any work you do in your own business where you get a paycheck or are paid in cash.**

- Yes, full time  
 Yes, part time  
 No

**12. Please select the option that best describes your current relationship with the mother of your youngest child:**

- Married
- Romantically involved
- Casual or on and off relationship/Just friends
- Not in any type of relationship
- Widowed/Mother is deceased → **SKIP TO QUESTION #14**
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**13. This question asks about the way you and your youngest child’s mother work together as parents. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
She does not follow the decisions I make about our child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We discuss the best way to meet our child’s needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
She makes negative or sarcastic comments about the way I am as a parent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We share information about our child with each other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
She undermines me as a father	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We make joint decisions about our child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
She makes it hard for me to spend time with our child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We try to understand where each other is coming from	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
She makes it hard for me to talk with our child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We respect each other’s decisions made about our child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
She tells our child what s/he is allowed and not allowed to say to me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**14. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My family values my role as a father	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child’s school/child care values my role as a father	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child’s health care providers (doctor, dentist, etc.) value my role as a father	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My community values men’s roles as fathers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know where to obtain resources or services in my community for me as a father	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is more support available in my community for mothers than for fathers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is enough support and help available for fathers in my community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Please indicate the extent to which the following items were a challenge for you in the last 30 days:

	A Big Challenge	Somewhat of a Challenge	A Small Challenge	Not a Challenge
Unemployment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not having a steady place to live	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alcohol use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Incarceration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Problems with the law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physical health problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Being accused of being violent toward your partner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Being accused of neglecting or abusing your child(ren)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An overcrowded home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Major repairs needed on your home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Being unable to pay child support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Being unable to pay other bills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your living situation preventing you from bringing your child(ren) to your home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulty controlling your anger	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having your child(ren) in foster care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Living too far from your child(ren)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working too many hours	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not having enough money to buy things for your child(ren)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having a protection order against you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keeping a job when you have one	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not knowing how to deal with family or civil court	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The court not supporting you visiting your child(ren)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your child(ren)'s mother has a new partner who does not want you around	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having car problems or lack of transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trouble with your child(ren)'s mother	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trouble with your child(ren)'s mother's family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Immigration problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not having enough money for food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not having health insurance for you or your child(ren)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feeling unsafe in your neighborhood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unpredictable work schedule	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Criminal record makes it hard to get a job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discrimination or harassment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feeling sad, blue, or depressed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feeling worried, tense, or anxious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify): _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thank you so much for completing this survey! The information you provided will help us learn more about Central Texas fathers and how our community can better support you.

**CHILD & FAMILY**  
RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
LBJ SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

 Texas Department of Family & Protective Services  
**PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION**  
*Strong Communities, Strong Families*



# TEXAS FATHERHOOD SUMMIT

Engaging Communities,  
Strengthening Families

**#TXdads2018 #fatherhood**

06.29.18 Austin, Texas  
The University of Texas at Austin  
AT&T Executive Education & Conference Center



## Welcome

The annual Texas Fatherhood Summit brings together policymakers, community stakeholders, and scholars to exchange ideas and work together to develop a comprehensive approach to supporting Texas fathers and their families. The theme of this year's Summit – *Engaging Communities, Strengthening Families* – focuses on why and how the inclusion of policies and programs that support fathers at the community level strengthens the entire family, as well as the communities in which they live. We are honored to have Mayor Ron Nirenberg of San Antonio join us and share his views on how local government and communities can incorporate fatherhood into their agendas. Renowned speaker and innovator, Paul Schmitz, CEO of Leading Inside Out, will share his expertise on how to build a culture in your community that fosters cooperation to make collective impact. Our other guests are people in the trenches, from state governments from all over the country to community members in our own backyard of Central Texas. Our hope is that you leave the Texas Fatherhood Summit with new resources and motivation to engage with others supporting fathers and families in your community.

## The Child and Family Research Partnership

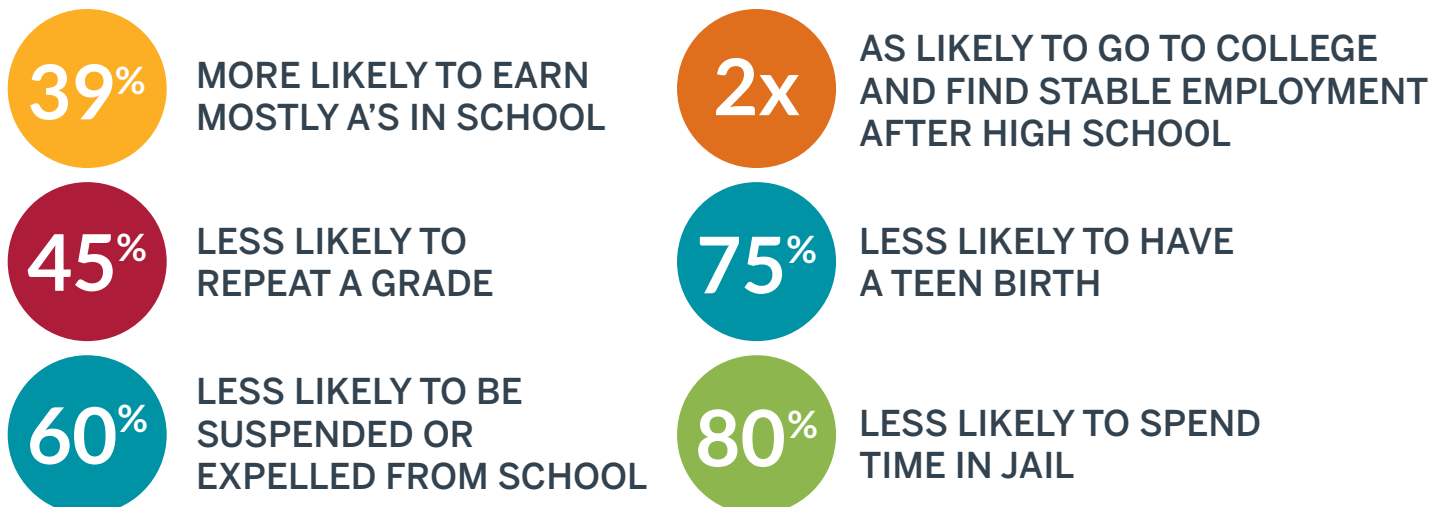
The Child and Family Research Partnership (CFRP) is an independent, nonpartisan research center at The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs, specializing in issues related to young children, teens, and their parents with the aim to strengthen families and enhance public policy. Since its founding in 2011, CFRP has become the go-to resource for large-scale evaluations, rigorous data analysis, and collaborative partnership for national and state policymakers and NGO leaders who work with the most vulnerable children and families.

## Texas DFPS, Prevention and Early Intervention Division

The Prevention and Early Intervention Division (PEI) of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) supports healthy social, emotional, and cognitive development of children and youth in stable family relationships and nurturing community environments. Through programs and services designed to improve parenting skills, strengthen family relationships, and build resiliency, PEI strives to reduce child abuse, enhance school readiness, improve social-emotional and physical health, and strengthen communities.

## DADS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!

Children who grow up with involved fathers are:



Citations provided at <http://childandfamilyresearch.utexas.edu/father-imp- infographic>

## Connect and Tweet

Follow and share the conversation today on Twitter and include the hashtag **#TXdads2018**. Tag **@CFRPIbj**, and we'll retweet you! Stay connected with the Child and Family Research Partnership to be informed of research on children and their parents by visiting us at **childandfamilyresearch.utexas.edu** and following us at **twitter.com/CFRPIbj** and **facebook.com/CFRPIbj**.



## Who's Here BINGO!

Our hope is that you leave today with new connections that will help strengthen your work in your community. Play *Who's Here BINGO* to meet others - and win prizes! Throughout the day, take a pen and the BINGO card you were given, and when you find someone who matches the descriptions in the boxes, have them initial their square. **When you get BINGO (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally), just drop off your card at the table in the back of the ballroom to be entered into the drawings for prizes.** You can also see a detailed break-down of who is a part of the 2018 Texas Fatherhood Summit on pages 7 and 8. It's an impressive group! *Tip: Put your business card in your name badge sleeve and swap them as you play BINGO or write down your new contacts' info on page 14 (Notes).*



## FAQ

**Where is the reception?** Please join us for a reception immediately after the Texas Fatherhood Summit in the Tejas Dining Room from 5:00pm - 6:30pm. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served, and there will be a cash bar. The Summit itself is in the Zlotnik Family Ballroom on Level B4 (in RRH), and the reception is in the Tejas Dining Room on Level M2 (in AT&T). You cannot reach M2 directly from B4 - take the escalator or elevator near the check-in table to Level M1 first, follow the signs down the hall, and then take the nearest stairs or elevator *upstairs* to the Tejas Dining Room on Level M2. (Don't worry, it's easier than it sounds.)



**How do I get a parking pass?** If you parked on-site at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, you can exchange the ticket you received when you entered for a single-use prepaid parking pass at the check-in table. (Attendees are responsible for the cost of parking in off-site garages or lots.)



**What is the wi-fi code?** There is no code required for conference attendees. Just connect to the network called "att-wifi".



Please join us for a Networking Reception in the Tejas Dining Room immediately following the Summit.

Tejas Dining Room (2nd Floor/Level M2 in AT&T) | 5:00pm - 6:30pm  
Hors d'Oeuvres and Cash Bar

# Agenda

TIME	SESSION
7:30 – 8:30am	<b>Breakfast Provided</b>
8:30 – 9:00am	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> <i>Cynthia Osborne, Ph.D.</i> , The University of Texas at Austin, Child and Family Research Partnership <i>Sasha Rasco</i> , Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention Division
9:00 – 10:00am	<b>KEYNOTE</b> <b>Everyone Leads: Building the Culture for Collective Impact</b> <i>Paul Schmitz</i> , Leading Inside Out
10:00 – 10:30am	<b>Break/Networking</b>
10:30 – 11:45am	<b>Focus on Fathers: Spotlight on State and Local Models for Supporting Fathers</b> Moderator: <i>Sasha Rasco</i> <i>Kimberly Dent</i> , Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood <i>Aldonis Grimes</i> , Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative, Ohio <i>Wally McClure</i> , Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Child Support <i>Anthony Mingo</i> , Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Family and Fatherhood Initiative <i>Anne Stone</i> , Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Admin.
11:45am – 12:45pm	<b>Lunch Provided</b>
12:45 – 1:45pm	<b>KEYNOTE</b> <b>Incorporating Fatherhood into Local Community Agendas: Why Fathers are Important and How to Take a Family-Inclusive Approach</b> Introduction: <i>Commissioner Hank Whitman</i> , Texas Department of Family and Protective Services <i>Mayor Ron Nirenberg</i> , City of San Antonio, Texas
1:45 – 2:30pm	<b>Transforming Communities at the Systems Level</b> <i>Cynthia Osborne, Ph.D.</i> <i>Kaeley Benson, Ph.D.</i> , The University of Texas at Austin, Child and Family Research Partnership
2:30 – 2:45pm	<b>Break/Networking</b>
2:45 – 3:45pm	<b>A Community Approach to Serving Fathers</b> Moderator: <i>Mervil Johnson</i> , Fatherhood Coalition of Tarrant County <i>Joshua Banks</i> , Housing Authority City of Austin, IDADS <i>David Bryant</i> , Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas <i>Le'Detrick Leonard</i> , Austin Academy of Hair Design
3:45 – 4:45pm	<b>Making Your Community More Father Friendly</b> <i>Cynthia Osborne, Ph.D.</i> <i>Kaeley Benson, Ph.D.</i>
4:45 – 5:00pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <i>Sasha Rasco</i> <i>Cynthia Osborne, Ph.D.</i>
5:00 – 6:30pm	<b>Networking Reception</b> (Tejas Dining Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor/Level M2 in AT&T)

## Hosts



**Henry "Hank" Whitman** is the Commissioner for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. He spent 22 years with the Texas Department of Public Safety. A decade of that time was spent serving as a Texas Ranger, and Whitman was named chief of the Texas Rangers in 2011. During his tenure with the Rangers, he created and supervised the elite Texas Ranger Reconnaissance Team and led border security operations. Whitman is also a military veteran having served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Previously he served as president of Whitman Consulting, a professional service company that provides security consulting and private investigations. Whitman earned a Bachelor of Science degree in law enforcement from Southwest Texas State University and a Master of Public Administration in criminal justice from Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi.



**Sasha Rasco** is the Associate Commissioner for Prevention and Early Intervention at the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and oversees a continuum of child, youth, and family services designed to improve the life trajectory for children and the communities in which they live and grow. Previously, Rasco worked for 14 years regulating and supporting early childhood education and foster care, including two years as the Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Licensing at DFPS. She has also developed programs and projects in other child and family service organizations including the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services and the Governor of Maryland: Office of Children, Youth, and Families. Rasco holds a Master of Public Affairs from The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts from the Humanities Honors Program from The University of Texas at Austin.



**Cynthia Osborne, Ph.D.** is the Director of the Child and Family Research Partnership, Associate Professor of Public Affairs, and Director of the Center for Health and Social Policy at The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs. She has extensive experience conducting large-scale program evaluations, with the aim of helping organizations understand what works and why, and how to ensure sustainable implementation of effective policies. She is an appointed member of the National Academies of Sciences Committee to Reduce Child Poverty by Half in Ten Years, and serves as Chair of the Responsible Fatherhood working group for the Fatherhood Research and Practice Network. Osborne holds a Ph.D. in Demography and Public Affairs from Princeton University, a Master in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and a Master of Arts in Education from Claremont Graduate University.



**Kaeley Benson, Ph.D.** is the Research Director at the Child and Family Research Partnership at The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs. Her research interests center around the development and wellbeing of at-risk children and their families. She previously was part of the research teams at the Yale Child Study Center and the Texas KIDS COUNT project at the Center for Public Policy Priorities. Benson earned her Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin. Outside of her work at CFRP, she also serves on the Leadership Council for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas, which supports families when they have critically ill or injured children in the hospital.

## Keynote Speakers



**Ron Nirenberg** was elected Mayor of San Antonio in June 2017. He has been committed to public service most of his life, including serving as a program director for the Annenberg Public Policy Center. He was first elected to the San Antonio City Council in 2013. The former District 8 Councilman helped guide one of the fastest-growing areas in the state and pursued policies that celebrated the city's diversity. He has championed smart planning, economic development, sustainability and government accountability. Mayor Nirenberg is committed to nurturing San Antonio's diverse economy, promoting its leadership on an international stage, and pursuing strategies that foster resilience and equity in all sectors of the city. As a tri-chair of the SA Tomorrow Plan, he is committed to building a city that works for all, adapts to rapid growth, and advances innovation and opportunity for local businesses while balancing sustainability goals.



**Paul Schmitz** builds the collective leadership of organizations and communities to achieve greater social impact through his roles as Senior Advisor at The Collective Impact Forum and CEO of Leading Inside Out. He is also the author of *Everyone Leads: Building Leadership from the Community Up*, and the former CEO of Public Allies, where he helped more than 5,000 diverse young adults begin careers working for community and social change. Schmitz is a faculty member of The Asset-Based Community Development Institute, and a board member of The Corps Network, the NYU Leadership Initiative, Playworks, and The United Way of Greater Milwaukee. He has also been recognized by The Rockefeller Foundation as a Next Generation Leadership Fellow, by *The Nonprofit Times* three separate years as one of the 50 most influential nonprofit leaders in America, and by *Fast Company Magazine* with their Social Capitalist Award for innovation. He lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with his wife and five children.

## Focus on Fathers: Spotlight on State and Local Models for Supporting Fathers



**Kimberly Dent** is the Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The Commission provides funding to Responsible Fatherhood programs throughout the state, makes policy recommendations, trains professionals, and engages the community regarding the vital role fathers play in their children's lives. Dent has served in various capacities in the local and state Child Support Programs including child support caseworker, program consultant, business analyst and Human Services Program Administrator in County Services, Policy as well as Outreach, Education and Grants Management at the State Office of Child Support. Dent holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration from Ohio University. She is working on her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration, specializing in law.



**Aldonis Grimes** is the Director of the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative in Ohio. He has managed the initiative from inception into a successful best practice program while securing over \$14 million from a combination of county, state and federal funding. Grimes manages all county related fatherhood contracts, leads community activities and represents the county in collaborations. He also directs policy development and technical assistance among collaborations and works with national, state, and local partners to monitor the successes of other fatherhood programs. Prior to Cuyahoga County, he held management and leadership positions at British Petroleum Corporation (BP America) and General Motors Corporation. Grimes holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Ohio Northern University and completed the Business Development Program at the Case Western Reserve Weatherhead School of Management.



**Wally McClure** is the Director of the Division of Child Support at the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. He joined the child support program in 1988 as a Support Enforcement Officer, and then held multiple management positions related to paternity acknowledgement, child support enforcement, statewide training, policy, and information technology. McClure became Director in 2011 and has led a major culture change in how the agency approaches parents who owe support, with preference given to a collaborative, whole-family approach. He is Immediate Past President of the National Council of Child Support Directors (NCCSD) and on the Board of Directors of the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA). He currently leads a national committee of NCCSD, NCSEA, and federal Office of Child Support Enforcement members on re-imagining the national perception of the child support program.



**Anthony Mingo** is the Project Director of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Virginia Family and Fatherhood Initiative (VFFI) and its Stronger Parents Brighter Futures Program. He facilitates the VFFI Stronger Parents Brighter Futures Program's statewide strategic vision by implementing a collective impact strategy collaborating with local county and city governments, faith-based organizations, and community-based non-profit partners. In 2012, he joined the VDH with many years of experience serving the broader community of the Commonwealth of Virginia and Metropolitan Washington, D.C. in family restoration and stabilization efforts. He previously spent 27 years working in various program management capacities for many Army, Navy and Department of Defense strategic programs. Mingo attended Morehouse College, School of Business, and Maryland University, Baltimore Campus Graduate School.



**Anne Stone** is the Director of the Washington Frontiers of Innovation initiative at the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Economic Services Administration where she oversees the partnership with the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. Their collective aim is to re-envision early childhood investments into brain science driven innovation in multi-disciplinary programs, systems, and policies to achieve break-through outcomes for vulnerable children and families. For over 10 years, she managed an \$8 million portfolio of programs and system change efforts at the United Way of the Columbia Willamette and the Commission on Children and Families in Oregon. Stone has been an advisor to state government in a variety of appointed roles including the State Children's Systems Advisory Council, the Early Childhood Matters Council, and Governor Kitzhaber's Early Childhood Design Transition Team.

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This!**

“ Supporting dads benefits both  
their children AND communities  
**#TXdads2018 #fatherhood**  
**@CFRPIbj @TexasDFPS** ”



## A Community Approach to Serving Fathers



**Mervil Johnson** (moderator) is the co-founder and Chairman of the Fatherhood Coalition of Tarrant County and Workforce Collaboration Manager at Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County in Fort Worth. Previously, he was Project Director for the first comprehensive, county-wide fatherhood program in Tarrant County known as FACT (Fathers and Children Together). This collaborative pilot project, funded by the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, was an \$8.4 million grant award designed to assist low-income fathers and families reach economic stability while improving their parenting and relationship skills. Johnson is a native of Fort Worth and graduate of Texas Christian University where he received both a Bachelor's in Spanish and French and a Master's in Public Administration. He was also awarded an ITT International Fellowship for one year of graduate study at the Université de Nice in France.



**Joshua Banks** serves as the IDADS Program Coordinator for the Housing Authority of the City of Austin. IDADS is a groundbreaking program aimed toward reducing fatherlessness and the results caused by absent father figures. He is also the Director of Public Relations for "The Man in Me," a nonprofit dedicated to educating, strengthening, and supporting men. He also co-founded the Mastering Manhood Conference, a cost free conference for men ages 16 and up, empowering them for personal and professional growth. Banks is a graduate of Rhema Bible College and has over 15 years of ministry experience, 9 years of law enforcement, and countless hours devoted to serving the community. He is the author of the thought-provoking book, *Jesus Others You: The Self-Centered Gospel*. His latest book, *The Doctrine of Synchronization*, is scheduled for release later this year.



**David Bryant** is a Father Engagement Coordinator with Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas and has worked with families for more than 18 years. He began the *Fathers Make A Difference Newsletter* which is now a quarterly *Family Engagement Newsletter* sent throughout the state of Texas. He also facilitates 24/7 DAD® groups in Hays County with teen fathers during the school day and other fathers and father figures at night. Bryant has received certifications and training from the National Fatherhood Initiative and the Fathers and Families Coalition of America. He is the current Chair of the planning committee for the Celebrating Families! Conference, an initiative of the Early Childhood Coalition of Hays County. Bryant is a great resource not only for the community but has helped programs across the nation. He teaches that fathers are an important part of our community and should not be left out.



**Le'Detrick Leonard** is the Campus Director of the Austin Academy of Hair Design. He is also an author, motivational speaker, and life coach who enjoys helping people reach a transformational moment in their lives. His goal is to inspire others by sharing his own personal experiences with life's challenges. He strives to empower individuals by educating and equipping them with tools that will help navigate life's journey when things become difficult mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Because of his lived experience of being a misguided youth, Leonard makes it a priority to always give back to young men through the forms of mentorship, leadership, and community service.

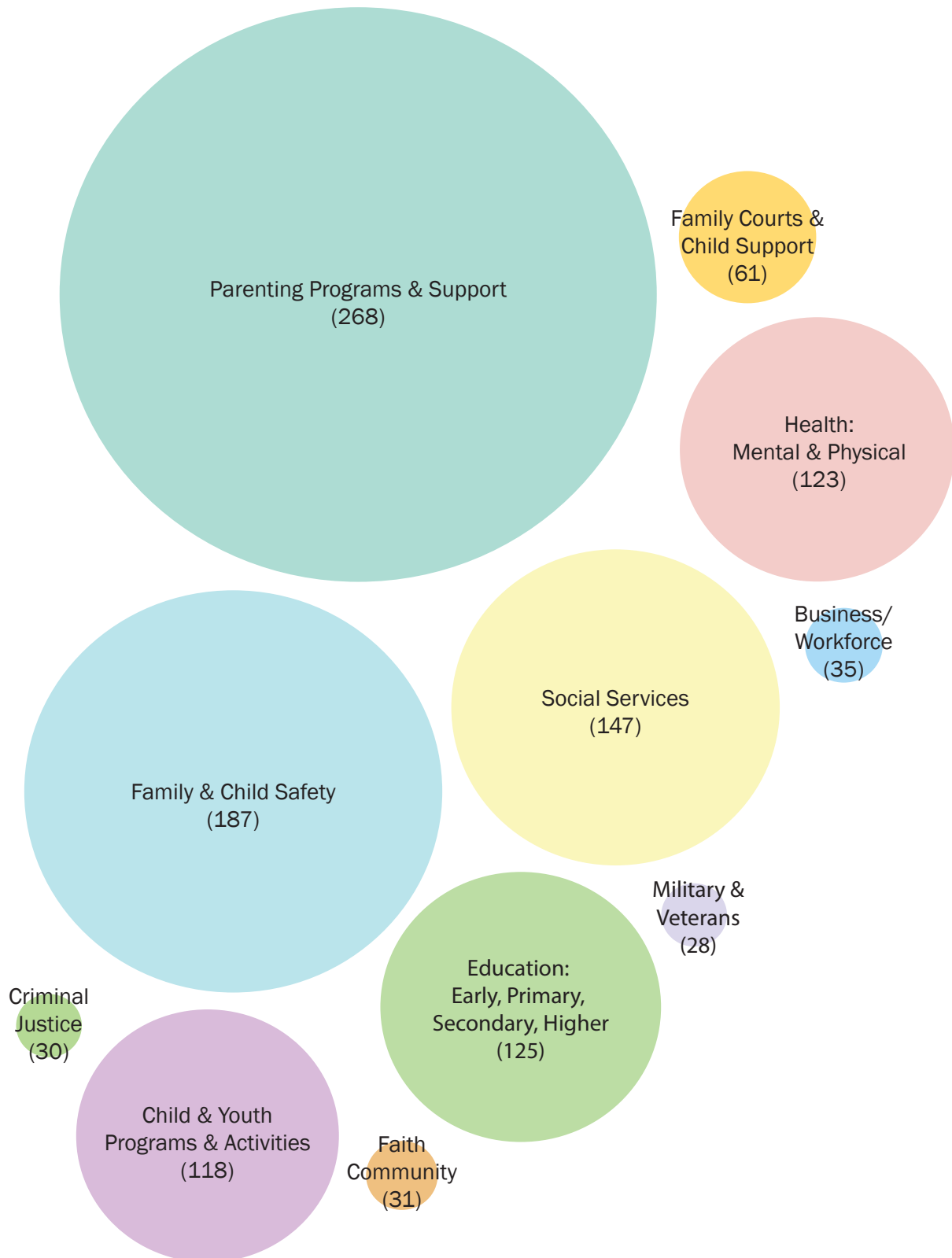
## TOP 10 GREATEST NEEDS OR CHALLENGES FACED BY THE FATHERS YOU SERVE

1. Lack of self-efficacy or confidence as a father
2. Limited education level and skills
3. Lack of employment
4. No services available for fathers, only mothers
5. Custody and parenting time arrangements
6. Incarceration records that limit employment
7. Housing stability
8. Issues related to child support
9. Mental health
10. Substance abuse problems

Source: Registration for the 2017 Texas Fatherhood Summit: Strengthening Services to Support Fathers.



## Community Partners: Who's Here?



Source: Responses from 2018 Texas Fatherhood Summit Registration: "Organization's focus areas (check all that apply)"



## Community Partners: Who's Here?

Alief Independent School District  
 Alviane, Inc.  
 American Business Corporation/Job Corps  
 Anthem Strong Families  
 Any Baby Can  
 Arlington Independent School District  
 ArrangeCARE  
 Austin Academy of Hair Design  
 Austin Independent School District  
 Austin Institute for the Study of Family & Culture  
 AVANCE Austin  
 AVANCE Houston  
 AVANCE San Antonio  
 BAE-B-SAFE  
 BCFS Health and Human Services  
 Bexar County  
 Black Belt Fatherhood Initiative  
 Bluebonnet Trails Community Services  
 Buckner Children and Family Services  
 Cardea Services  
 CASA of Travis County  
 Casey Family Programs  
 Catholic Charities of Central Texas  
 Center for the Support of Families  
 Central Texas Food Bank  
 Child Crisis Center of El Paso  
 Child Inc.  
 Children and Family Institute  
 Children Give Us Hope  
 Children's Justice Act  
 Children's Learning Institute  
 City of Austin  
 City of San Antonio  
 Coalition of Health Services  
 Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation  
 Collaborative for Children  
 Community Action Inc. of Central Texas  
 Community Healthcare Center  
 Community Healthcore  
 Connections Community Support Programs  
 Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse Coastal Bend  
 Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative, Ohio  
 Dallas Independent School District  
 Delaware Fatherhood and Family Coalition  
 Delivering Change  
 Dell Children's Health Plan  
 Early Head Start  
 Education Service Center, Region 2  
 El Buen Samaritano  
 Eleven 11 Consulting, LLC  
 EngenderHealth  
 Fatherhood Coalition of Tarrant County  
 Fathers In The Field Texas/Oklahoma  
 Fulton County  
 Georgetown Health Foundation  
 Girl Scouts of Central Texas  
 Greater Mt. Zion Church  
 Guinn Healthcare Technologies  
 Harris County Domestic Relations Office  
 Hays Consolidated Independent School District  
 Healthy Families of Travis County  
 Healthy Futures of Texas  
 HIPPPY Program, Wichita Falls Area  
 Horizon Outreach  
 Housing Authority of the City of Austin  
 Houston Independent School District  
 La Vega High School  
 LifeSteps  
 LifeWorks Austin  
 Lumin Education  
 Mama Sana Vibrant Woman  
 Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute  
 MET Inc. New Pathways for Fathers & Families  
 Motivation Education & Training, Inc.  
 Movements of God International Church  
 MyLifeGuard  
 National Association of Social Workers, Texas  
 National Council of Negro Women  
 National Fatherhood Initiative  
 New Life Individual & Family Services  
 NewDay Services for Children and Families  
 North Texas Area United Way  
 Nurse Family Partnership  
 Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
 Optimum Lifestyle CDC  
 Palo Alto College  
 Parkland Nurse Family Partnership  
 Partners in Parenting  
 Republic Transport  
 San Antonio Metropolitan Health District  
 School of Etiquette  
 Shield Bearer Counseling Centers  
 Southwest Key Programs  
 St. David's Foundation  
 Strong Fathers-Strong Families, LLC  
 SUMA Social Marketing  
 Texans Care for Children  
 Texas A&M University  
 Texas Alliance of Child & Family Services  
 Texas Campaign To Prevent Teen Pregnancy  
 Texas CASA  
 Texas Center for the Judiciary  
 Texas Council on Family Violence  
 Texas Dept. of Family & Protective Services  
 Texas Dept. of State Health Services  
 Texas Education Agency  
 Texas Health & Human Services Commission  
 Texas Juvenile Justice Department  
 Texas Legal Service Center  
 Texas Office of The Attorney General  
 Texas Office of the Comptroller  
 Texas Public Policy Foundation  
 Texas State University  
 Texas WIC  
 Texas Workforce Commission  
 Texas Workforce Solutions  
 TexProtects  
 The Children's Shelter  
 The Family Place  
 The Georgetown Project  
 The Man in Me  
 The SAFE Alliance  
 The Settlement Home for Children  
 The University of Texas at Austin  
 The University of Texas at Dallas  
 Travis County  
 Together Forever Inc  
 Together in Texas  
 Tyler Family Circle of Care  
 United Way for Greater Austin  
 United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County  
 United Way of the Coastal Bend  
 Upbring  
 U.S. Air Force, Family Advocacy  
 U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families  
 UT Health Science Center at Tyler  
 UT System Population Health  
 Victoria County  
 Victoria Independent School District  
 Virginia Department of Health  
 Washington State Department of Social & Health Services  
 Washington State Division of Child Support  
 While Walking Along The Path...  
 Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County  
 Your New Beginning  
 Youth Advocacy



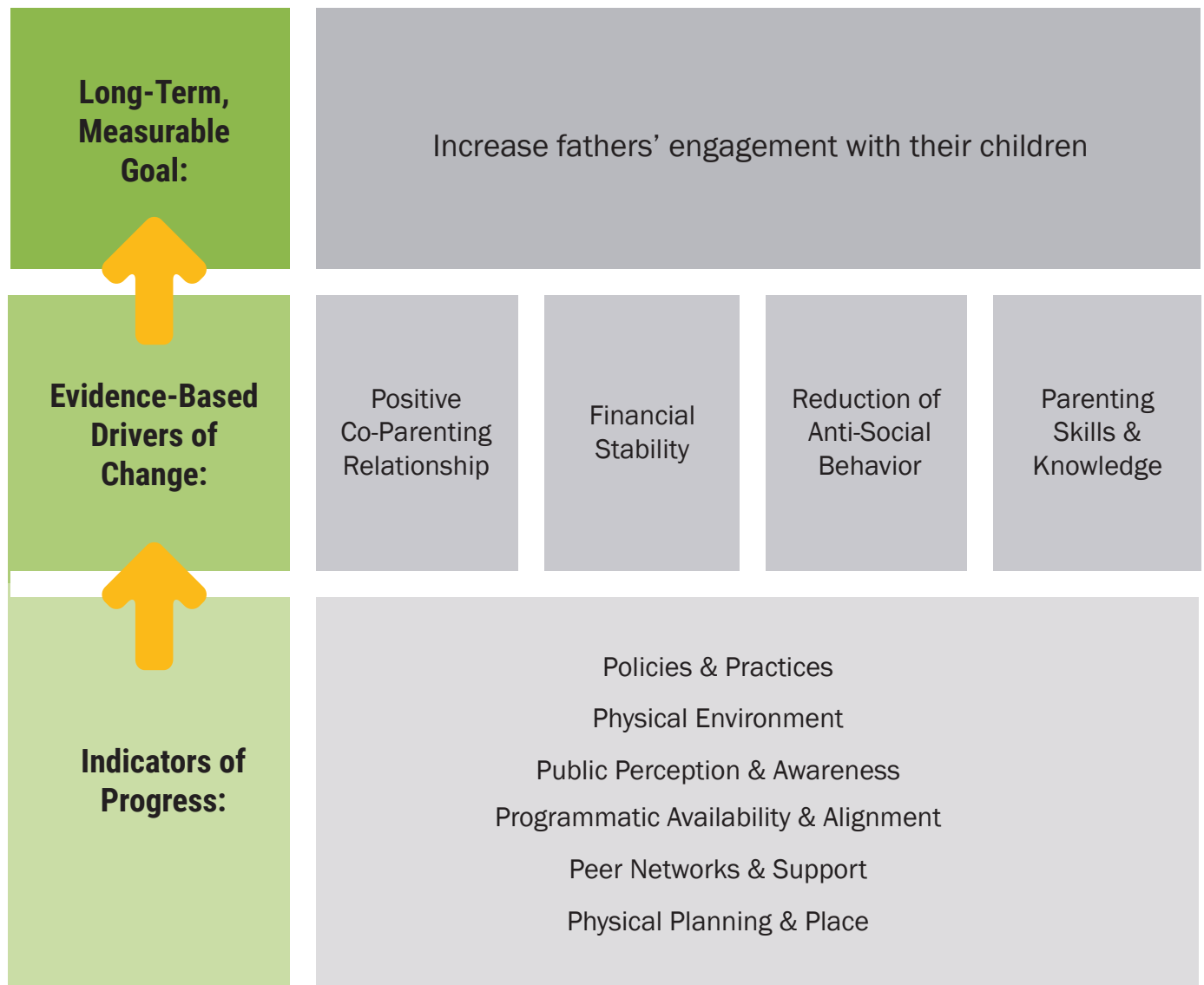




## Transforming Communities at the Systems Level

The process map below provides a framework for developing evidence-based strategies and measuring progress toward achieving systems-level change.

### Process Map for Systems-Level Change





## Making Your Community More Father Friendly

1. Is your organization/community inclusive of fathers? How?

2. What stands in the way of your organization or community being more inclusive of fathers? Reflect on any challenges your organization or community might face to becoming more inclusive to fathers, such as gender biases, and how you might address these challenges.



## Making Your Community More Father Friendly

Below are five sample strategies for making your program or community more father friendly. Have you tried these strategies? Do you think they could work?

### Father Friendly Strategies

1. *Add spaces on forms for both parents' names and contact information, so you can communicate with dad directly.*
2. *Schedule child appointments and meetings at times that work for both parents.*
3. *Specifically mention fathers (i.e. "moms and dads") when you talk about families.*
4. *Display pictures of children with their fathers, in addition to pictures of children with their mothers.*
5. *Communicate with both parents about the child; for example, if parents do not live together, mail information to both of their addresses.*

### Father Friendly Strategies: Brainstorm at Your Table

Building on your own experience and the list provided above, what are some innovative ways to make your program, organization, or community more father friendly? Try to come up with 10 different strategies with your table, and write them here to take home.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



# How Texas Agencies are Supporting Fathers



## Future, Expectant, and New Parents

- Office of the Attorney General (OAG) Parenting and Paternity Awareness (p.a.p.a.) program at all public middle and high schools, including Texas Juvenile Justice Department state-operated facilities
- Department of State Health Services Healthy Texas Babies
- Health and Human Services Commission WIC Peer Dad Program
- Department of Family and Protective Services Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Texas Home Visiting
- PEI Safe Babies



## Support throughout the Child's Life

- Texas Child Protective Services Responsible Fathering Initiative
- Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) child care assistance
- Texas Education Agency Start Smart Texas
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED)
- PEI
  - Fatherhood EFFECT
  - Military Families and Veteran Pilot Prevention Program
  - Help through Intervention and Prevention (HIP)
  - Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Supports (HOPES)
  - Home-Visiting Education and Leadership (HEAL)
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)
  - Partners with local organizations to provide parenting and coparenting programs to incarcerated parents at select sites
  - Holds annual Family Days for offenders to visit relatives



## Child Support and Custody

- Unmarried parents can voluntarily establish paternity at the child's birth in the hospital or by going to their local child support office
- State law presumes joint managing conservatorship
- Application for public benefits by custodial parent automatically opens child support case if a child support order does not already exist
- All child support orders are accompanied by parenting time plan
- OAG phone hotline and online resource directory helps noncustodial parents enforce access and visitation
- OAG + TDCJ cooperate to assist incarcerated noncustodial parents with modifying child support orders
- OAG + TWC Non-Custodial Parent (NCP) Choices Program supports low-income or under/unemployed noncustodial parents

Source: CFRP Policy Brief B.035.0518 *Fatherhood In Texas: Texas is Supporting Fathers, But Can Do More.*  
<http://childandfamilyresearch.utexas.edu/fatherhoodintx>



## Notes

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**CHILD & FAMILY**  
RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
LBJ SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## Strengthening Families & Enhancing Public Policy Through Rigorous Research

The Child and Family Research Partnership is an independent, nonpartisan research center under the direction of Dr. Cynthia Osborne at The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs. CFRP specializes in rigorous research on policy issues related to young children, teens, and their parents. CFRP seeks to understand how current demographic trends affect parents and their children, what factors contribute to both positive and negative child outcomes, and what policy and programmatic changes can be implemented to improve child and family wellbeing.

Areas of research include:

### Family Supports

Community Impact • Economic Security

### Fatherhood

Supports for Fathers • Paternity Establishment • Child Support

### Early Childhood Investments

Home Visiting • Public Pre-Kindergarten • Child Care

### Child Welfare

Child Welfare Workforce • Child and Family Outcomes

### Adolescent Health and Wellbeing

Teen Pregnancy Prevention • Youth Homelessness



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*The Child and Family Research Partnership (CFRP) is an independent, nonpartisan research group at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin, specializing in issues related to young children, teens, and their parents. We engage in rigorous research and evaluation work aimed at strengthening families and enhancing public policy.*