



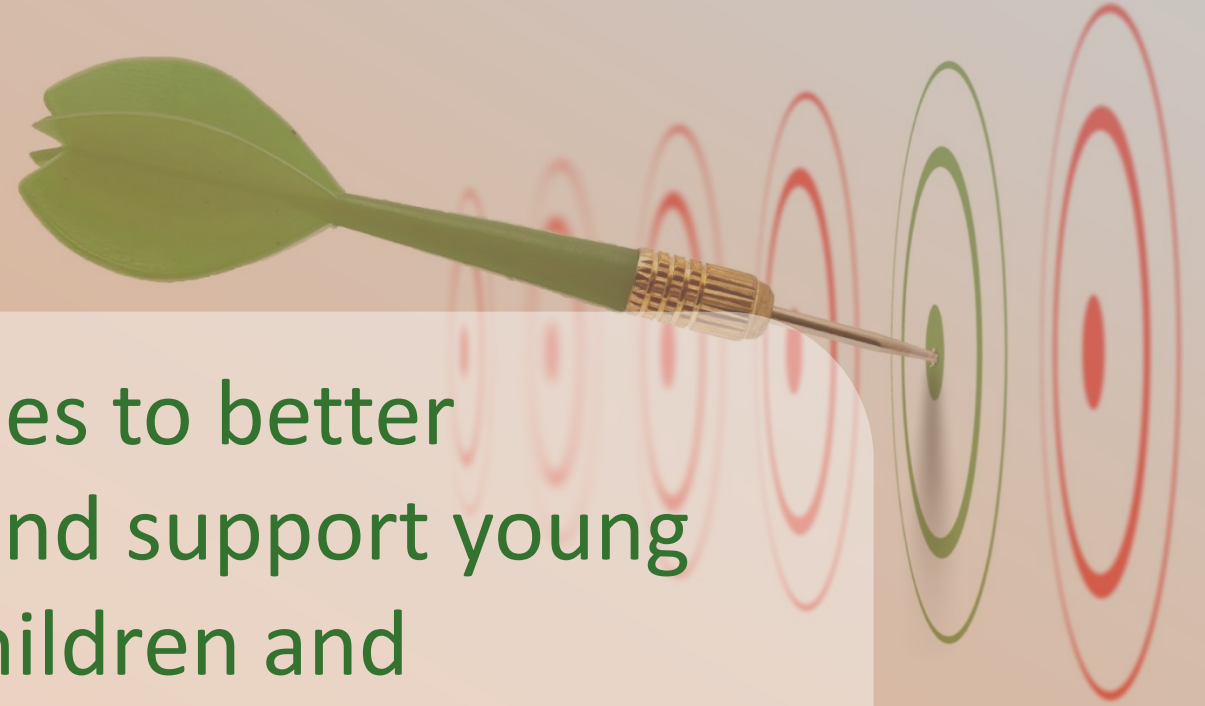
RETHINKING YOUNG FATHERS: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRACTICE INNOVATIONS

State your name, organization and role

What's one thing you'd like to gain from the workshop?


When you think about young fathers, what typically comes to mind?

Results



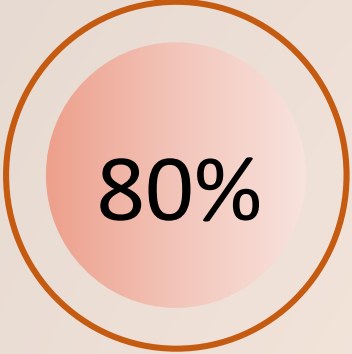
- ❖ Explore strategies to better engage, serve and support young fathers, their children and families; and
- ❖ Share lessons learned, tools and resources.

What We Know



2X


Likelihood of men who aged out of foster care to father a child by age 26 when compared to non-foster care peers.



80%

Likelihood of children who feel close to their fathers spending no time in jail during their lifetime.

Pruett, K.D. (2000). *Fatherneed: Why father care is as essential as mother care for your child*. New York: Free Press.



2X

Likelihood of children who feel close to their fathers to enter college or find stable employment after high school when compared to their peers who do not feel close to their fathers.

Pruett, K.D. (2000). *Fatherneed: Why father care is as essential as mother care for your child*. New York: Free Press.



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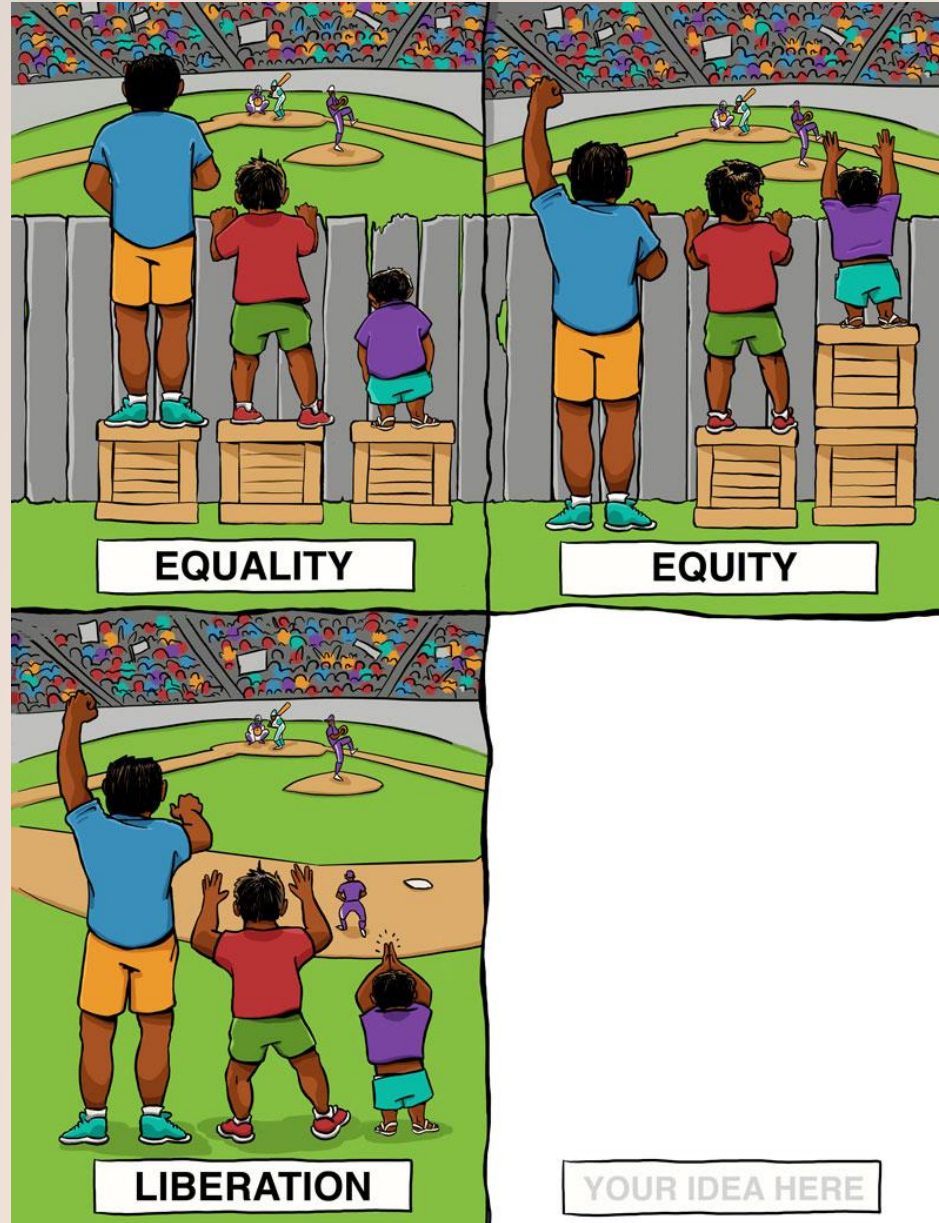
Number of states that met the federal standards related to father assessment, engagement, visitation or service provision.

Sorry, Racism: Black Men Are Actually Amazing Dads According to New Study

By Jessica Blankenship

A study by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that “[B]lack men are at least as involved in the lives of their children as fathers of other races, and in many cases, much more involved.”





EQUALITY

EQUITY

LIBERATION

YOUR IDEA HERE

"We have to listen to the young fathers."



NEW POLICY REPORT

from the

Center
for the
Study
of
Social
Policy



**Expectant & Parenting
Youth in Foster Care**
Learning Collective

Available at:

<http://www.cssp.org/pages/changing-systems-practice-to-improve-outcomes-for-young-fathers>

DADDY DON'T GO



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Father Identification

Require the identification of young fathers as early as possible during pregnancy using all available resources for identification.



Father Identification

- Training on:
 - Benefits of establishing legal parental status
 - Importance of signing birth certificates
 - Young fathers' understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities to their children
- Ongoing conversations about pregnancy and parenthood with all youth
- Data sharing agreements with education, child support, Juvenile Justice



Small Group Discussion

What specific challenges have you faced in identifying young fathers?



Father-Focused Practice

Remove barriers to engagement and create opportunities for young fathers both as adolescents and parents by building protective and promotive factors associated with healthy development and well-being.

Protective/Promotive Factors Across Development

When children are young, the family environment is very important. That's why Strengthening Families emphasizes parents' protective factors as a pathway to children's well-being.



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Parental Resilience
- Social Connections
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Concrete Support in Times of Need
- Social and Emotional Competence of Children

PROTECTIVE FACTORS strengthening families
A PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK

YOUTH THRIVE PROTECTIVE & PROMOTIVE FACTORS

- Youth Resilience
- Social Connections
- Knowledge of Adolescent Development
- Concrete Support in Times of Need
- Cognitive and Social-Emotional Competence in Youth



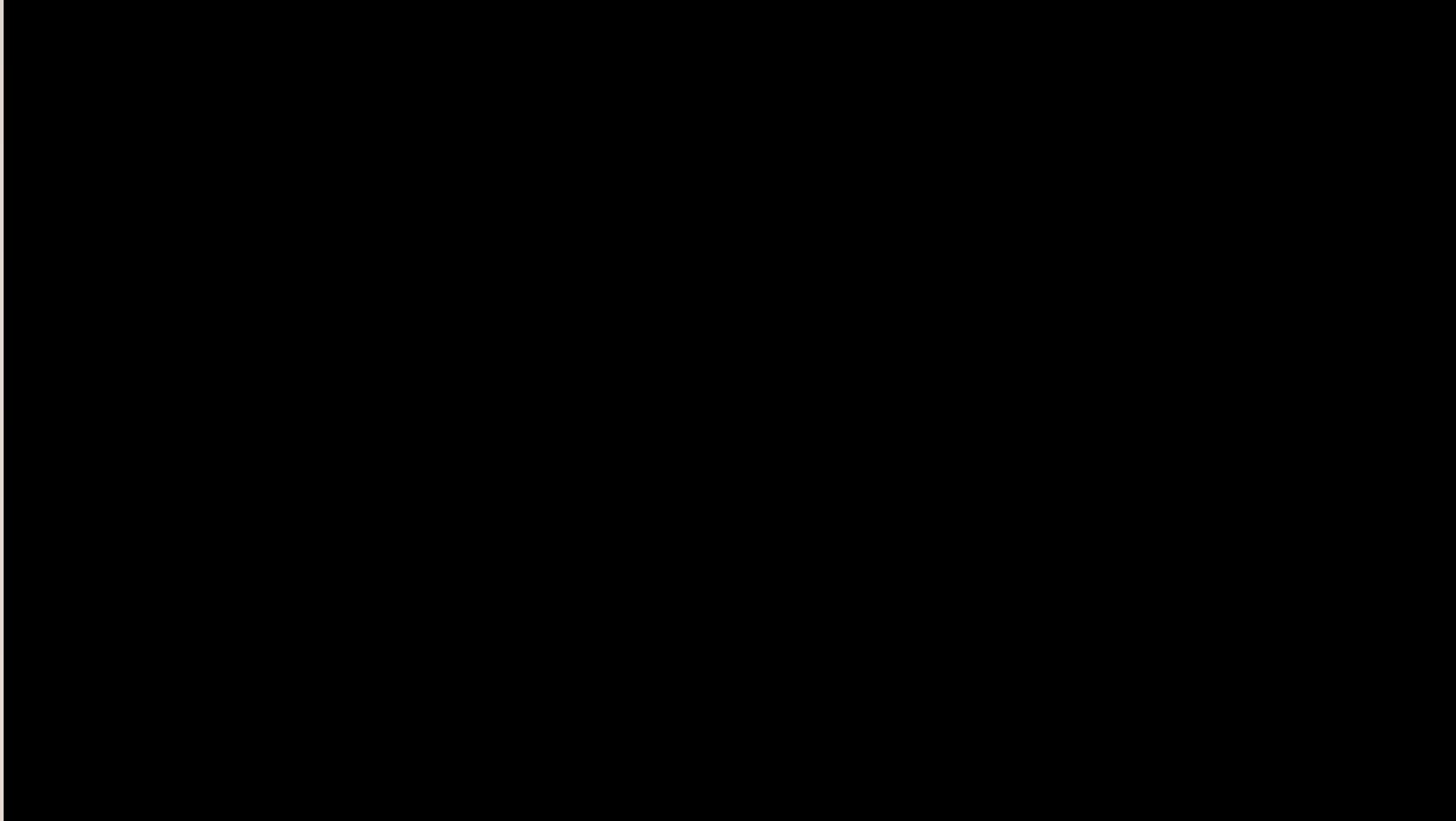
PROTECTIVE & PROMOTIVE FACTORS

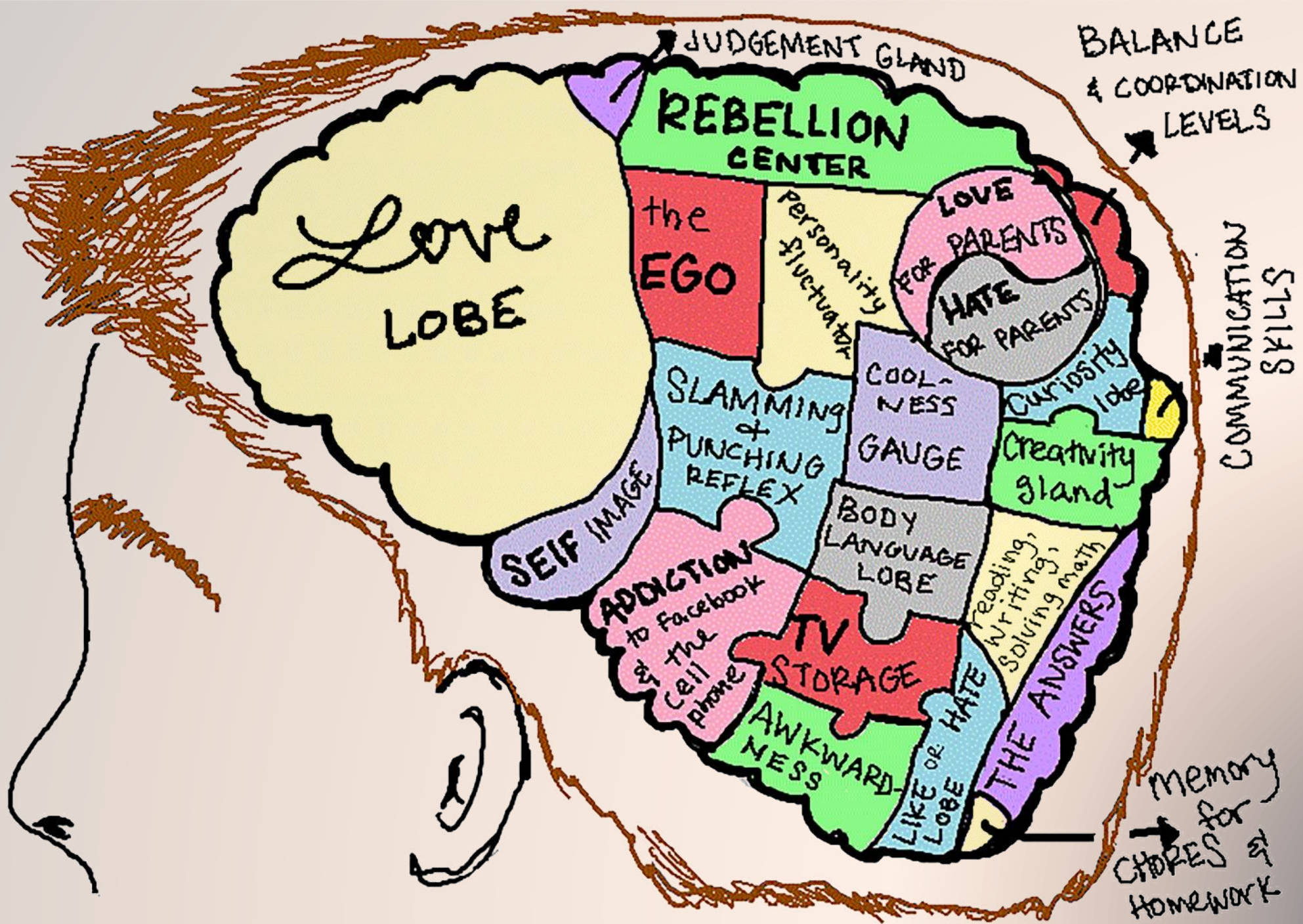
YOUTH THRIVE
PROTECTIVE & PROMOTIVE FACTORS FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING



As children grow, their own sense of self and experiences in family, peer, school and community contexts are very important. Youth Thrive emphasizes protective and promotive factors as a pathway to well-being during adolescence and in the transition to adulthood.

Building Adult Capacities to Improve Child Outcomes





Father Focused Practice

- Trainings on:
 - Establishing trust-based relationships
 - Critical thinking and implicit bias
 - Trauma and adolescent development
 - Building protective and promotive factors
 - Talking about sexual and reproductive health
- Father engagement specialists
- Nontraditional communication tools to engage
- Mentorship and life long positive connections
- Home visiting programs
- Family time
- Coparenting



Small Group Discussion

What does best practice with young fathers look like in your organization?



Data Recommendations

Systematically collect, analyze and use data on expectant and parenting young fathers and their unique needs.

Establish performance benchmarks for engaging and serving young expectant and parenting fathers and create systems of accountability.



Data Recommendations

- **Modify state and local data management systems**
- **Establish data sharing agreements**
- **Conduct annual quality reviews**
- **Collaborate and share benchmarks across systems**

Lessons Learned

- Tailored recruitment and engagement approach for fathers is needed
- The prenatal period is an opportunity for intervention and growth
- Ongoing engagement of the whole family and follow-up support by case workers is vital
- Adolescent parents identify peer parenting support as significant



Father Friendly Check-Up™ (FFCU)

- Comprehensive organizational assessment of “father-friendliness”
 - 130-item questionnaire
- Provides strategies to increase organizational father-friendliness



Coparenting Intervention

8 weekly two hour sessions

Tailored to develop:

- Reflection
- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Self-Regulation
- Stress Management
- Giving and Receiving Support
- Nurturing Parenting
- Expressing Needs and Feelings

Expectant and parenting youth leave the workshop with:

- Knowledge and skills to create a nurturing environment for their children
- Skills to establish a positive coparenting relationship
- A co-created parenting plan that enables them to work together to promote the well-being of their child
- Ongoing and sustained involvement, especially by the non-custodial parent in the child's life

“If it wasn't for this coparenting workshop, I would have never gotten my child back.”

“Now we take the time to listen to each other and focus on what the baby needs.”

24/7 Dad[®] and Teen Dads

- Most widely used evidence-based program
- A.M. and P.M. versions (3rd editions)
 - 12, two-hour sessions (1/week)
 - Focus on building self-worth and habits of good fathering
 - Booster sessions (e.g., money management and child support)
- Experimental evaluation: randomized assignment
 - Increased pro-fathering attitudes, knowledge and self-efficacy (skills)
 - Improved father-child interaction and coparenting



www.fatherhood.org/free-resources/topic/247dad

Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit

Available at: www.fatherhood.gov/toolkit

- Building effective fatherhood programs
- Effectively engaging fathers
- Cultivating community partners for project success
- Recruiting, retaining, and training staff
- Serving fathers with specific barriers
- Promoting sustainability

The toolkit covers these and other topics through:

- Tips and suggestions from experienced practitioners
- Activities for use with fathers in one-to-one or group sessions
- Tools and resources from model programs and expert practitioners to use and share with fathers



The screenshot shows the website for the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse. The header includes the organization's logo and name, a search bar, and a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, DadTalk Blog, For Dads, For Programs, Library, Multimedia, Fatherhood Pledge, and En Español. The main content area is titled "Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit: Resources from the Field" and features a navigation bar with buttons for Home, About, Start, Build, Work, Activities, and References, along with a "Printer Friendly Version" button. Below this is a social media sharing icon and a "Home" section with introductory text and a link to "About This Toolkit" which includes a photo of a family and a brief description of the toolkit's purpose.

Questions?



Putting it into Practice

What's one thing that you can commit to doing differently immediately?

Thank you!

WWW.CSSP.ORG

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