



*Prepared for the Annie E. Casey Foundation by JustPartners, Inc.*

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# 40+ Top Fatherhood Resources

## What this document is and isn't.

The field of Responsible Fatherhood has grown in important and influential ways since the 1980s. In communities and at the state level around the country, advocates, practitioners, their allies, fathers, and families work every day to improve outcomes for children through greater father involvement. The Annie E. Casey Foundation has been a consistent supporter of the field because Foundation administrators and the Board of Trustees believe both fathers and mothers are central to the achievement of the Foundation's mission to improve the lives of struggling children and families.

With this list, the Foundation wants to make available to its grantees and others who access Casey informational resources a selection of documents *available on the web* that can guide both beginners and those who have been involved in fatherhood work for a long time. Readers should understand that the list is *illustrative* of resources that are available, rather than exhaustive. The Annie E. Casey Foundation has not assessed every resource listed here, nor have the several leaders in the fatherhood field who provided input throughout the development of the document. Further, the Foundation is aware of the good work underway for which no online resources currently exist.

The fatherhood field continues to grow, learn from its work, and put additional resources online. These resources are a snapshot of web-based materials available as of May, 2011 for those who seek to learn more. The Foundation hopes the reader will find this list to be user-friendly in its attempt to offer field-shaping research and information sites, practical tools, and programmatic guidance for the important work of responsible fatherhood.

## The "Big 3": Key Resources for the Field

1. <http://www.fatherhood.gov/> The **National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse** (NRFC) supports the efforts of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to assist States and communities to promote and support Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage. Primarily a resource for professionals operating Responsible Fatherhood programs, the NRFC provides access to print and electronic publications, timely information on fatherhood issues, and targeted resources that support HHS-funded Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage initiatives. It provides resources and references to enhance current and future research at <http://www.fatherhood.gov/policy-research/research/information-centers>. Research and data include information from Child Trends, Institute for Research on Poverty, Joint Center for Poverty Research, National Child Support Enforcement Association, National Fatherhood Initiative, and the Urban Institute. The NRFC web site also provides essential information for other audiences interested in fatherhood issues.

2. [www.fathers.com](http://www.fathers.com) The **National Center for Fathering** provides practical, research-based training and resources that equip men in virtually every fathering situation to be involved fathers. It posts recent and key research, offers seminars, small group trainings, train-the-trainer workshops, selected programming, and a wealth of user-friendly free resources for dads (organized by child's age and father circumstance). For practitioners and fathers alike.

3. [www.fatherhood.org](http://www.fatherhood.org) **National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI)** works in every sector and at every level of society to engage fathers in the lives of their children. Since 2004, through its resource center, FatherSOURCE, NFI has distributed over 5.7 million resources, and has trained over 7,400 practitioners on how to deliver programming to dads. NFI is also a leading producer of research on the causes and consequences of father absence, anchored by its research publication, *Father Facts*. NFI's website offers research and evaluation data, free and fee-based information and products, a free email service called Dad E-mail™, tools and resources for supporting fathers in diverse settings, media resources, and a membership club called "The Dads Club." For practitioners and fathers alike.

## Research and Data

4. <http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/> The **Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study** follows a cohort of nearly 5,000 children born in large U.S. cities between 1998 and 2000 (roughly three-quarters of whom were born to unmarried parents). The core study was designed to address four questions: (1) What are the conditions and capabilities of unmarried parents, especially fathers? (2) What is the nature of the relationships between unmarried parents? (3) How do children born into these families fare? (4) How do policies and environmental conditions affect families and children?

5. <http://crfcfw.columbia.edu/> The mission of the **Center for Research on Fathers, Children and Family Well-Being** is to expand the knowledge base on the role of fathers (and father figures) in the lives of disadvantaged children and the processes by which nonresident fathers (and father figures) affect child development and family well-being.

6. <http://www.childtrends.org/listAllPubs.cfm?LID=36D54A3B-4782-4580-A12CFC47CBC9616D> **Child Trends** provides research on how family relationships influence a child's development from birth through the transition to adulthood. Looks at fatherhood and marriage to understand the ways in which they affect child well-being. Research provides perspectives on family strengths.

7. [http://www.clasp.org/issues?type=child\\_support\\_and\\_fathers](http://www.clasp.org/issues?type=child_support_and_fathers) The **Center for Law and Social Policy** conducts research on child support and fathers.

## General Guidance for Fatherhood Programming

8. <http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/library/docs/fatherhd/Blob/62423.pdf?w=NATIVE%28%27BASIC+ph+is+%27%27Promising+Practice+Reports%27%27+AND+AUTHORS+ph+like+%27%27National+Responsible+Fatherhood+Clearinghouse%27%27%27%29&upp=0&rpp=-10&order=native%28%27year%2FDescend%27%29&r=1&m=3> **Elements of Promising Practice in Teen Fatherhood Programs** summarizes fatherhood programs which have been subjected to evaluation research that meet certain evidence-based criteria. Also identifies criteria from model programs that can guide good practice.

9. <http://www.fatherhood.gov/about-us/nrfc-resources/nrfc-tips-for-professionals> **Tips for Professionals** aims to help fatherhood programs operate more effectively.

10. <http://www.urban.org/publications/411623.html> **Ten Key Findings from Responsible Fatherhood Initiatives** from Urban Institute enables the field to build on early successes and lessons learned.

11. <http://fatherhood.hhs.gov/Development/guidebook03/> **Guidebook to the Responsible Fatherhood Project Participant Management Information System** is a tool developed to help fatherhood programs manage and assess their programs by maintaining information on the services needed and delivered to fathers in their programs. The system allows programs to track the progress of individual fathers and to aggregate data on program participants for reporting purposes. The RFMIS is available for use as a paper and pencil tracking system or as an electronic database that can be downloaded into any computer system that uses Microsoft Access.

12. <http://www.fatherhood.gov/practitioners/program-implementation/program-development#NRFCCResources> **Resources** Guidelines for selecting curricula for fatherhood programs.

13. <http://www.npclstrongfamilies.com/> **National Partnership for Community Leadership** offers training to learn the theory and the practice of working with men and fathers. The four-day Institute trains individuals and agencies in the history of the responsible fatherhood movement; best-practices in working with men and fathers including recruitment, retention, and evaluation; integrating relationship and marriage education; and how to implement effective peer support groups. Workshops on men and fathers are based on *The Fatherhood Development Curriculum*. Fee-based.

14. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/COC/PDFs/fatherhood/connecting/fininfo.pdf> **Financing Fatherhood Programs** is an information sheet from the National Council of State Legislatures.

## Resources Specifically for Latino and/or Spanish-Speaking Fathers

- 15.** <http://www.nlffi.org/> The *National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute* offers consulting, seminars, and trainings. Its goal is to address the multifaceted needs of Latino men and foster a positive approach to working with Latino populations, building on the strengths of cultural traditions. Through research, training, and direct service, the Institute helps fathers of all ages develop strong, active roles in the lives of their children, while concurrently addressing the very painful aspects of child abuse, domestic violence, gang violence, school failure, illiteracy, teen pregnancy and other related issues.
- 16.** <http://www.nlffi.org/publications/downloads/files/nlffifatherhoodtoolkit.pdf> The National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute's *Fatherhood Lessons* toolkit offers insights to help deepen understanding of many of the customs and traditions that historically motivate Latino men and their families and provides a variety of practical tools, guidelines, and interventions to consider when constructing culturally relevant fatherhood programs.
- 17.** <http://www.nationalcompadresnetwork.com/> The *National Compadres Network* provides consultation and technical assistance locally and nationally, guides and assists in the development of local "circuitos" and provides training for service providers in a number of culturally competent curriculums addressing a variety of issues including family violence, gang violence, teen pregnancy prevention, teen fatherhood, Latino Male Youth Rites of Passage, fatherhood literacy, and fatherhood parenting.

See also: Padre Adentro Y Afuera™ <http://www.fatherhood.org/insideoutdad/Spanish/> for incarcerated dads and Boot Camp for New Dads <http://www.bootcampfornewdads.org/> cited elsewhere on this list.

## Resources Specifically for African American Fathers

See below: *California Social Work Education Center's* curriculum for child welfare system personnel to work effectively with African American fathers.  
[http://calswec.berkeley.edu/CalSWEC/OtherTraining\\_AfricanAmFathers.html](http://calswec.berkeley.edu/CalSWEC/OtherTraining_AfricanAmFathers.html)

## Resources Specifically for Native American Fathers

- 18.** <http://www.nativeamericanfathers.org/> *Native American Fatherhood & Families Association* (NAFFA) provides training, information, technical assistance, consultation and support to tribes, agencies and community organizations (i.e. TANF, Head Start, Behavioral Health, Social Services, and Corrections). Its copyrighted *Fatherhood/Motherhood is Sacred* curriculum was developed by a Native American father to enable parents to strengthen character and integrity by progressively building upon proven and motivating principles of Native American heritage. Facilitators are trained and agencies are certified by NAFFA, allowing them to implement the program. NAFFA also offers individual certification for independent facilitators. A unique element of this program is the strong evaluation component available to certified facilitators and agencies. The three evaluation elements include a pre-test, a post-test and a six month follow-up. Fee-based.

### Tools/Guides/Curricula

#### A. Related to Child Support

- 19.** [http://www.fathers.com/content/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=84&Itemid=117](http://www.fathers.com/content/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=84&Itemid=117) *Fathering Court: Getting to the Heart of Child Support* guides users on the practice and results from an innovative alternative to prosecution and incarceration for men with significant child support arrearages. The program increases the number of fathers that contribute financially and emotionally to their children and improves their marriage-ability by helping the men successfully overcome the challenges that have led to their non-payment of child support.
- 20.** <http://www.cga.ct.gov/coc/PDFs/fatherhood/connecting/childsupp.pdf> Information on *How the Child Support System Affects Low-Income Fathers* from the National Council of State Legislators.

#### B. Related to Child Welfare

- 21.** <http://www.nfpn.org/> The mission of the *National Family Preservation Network* (NFPN) is to serve as the primary national voice for the preservation of families and be at the forefront of the fatherhood movement in the child welfare system. NFPN offers research-based tools, training resources, and technical assistance to public and private child- and family-serving agencies, including the first online course on father-involvement with continuing education credits. NFPN has published the first-of-its-kind Basic Fatherhood Training Curriculum, successfully field-tested nationwide, that includes a curriculum, training guide, accompanying overheads and handouts, and video. An Advanced Fatherhood Training Curriculum training package, focusing on best practice and the actual skills needed to engage fathers, is also available. Fee-based.

22. <http://www.pacwcbt.pitt.edu/Curriculum/305%20Engaging%20Absent%20Fathers.htm> *Engaging Absent Fathers* is an online curriculum developed by the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program.
23. [http://www.risemagazine.org/PDF/Rise\\_issue\\_12.pdf](http://www.risemagazine.org/PDF/Rise_issue_12.pdf) *RISE*, a magazine written by and for parents with children in the child welfare system, focuses this edition on the rights and roles of fathers.
24. [http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/01.08\\_Involving\\_Fathers.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/01.08_Involving_Fathers.pdf) Practice tips for child welfare caseworkers to involve fathers, written by the *Iowa Department of Human Services*.
25. [http://calswec.berkeley.edu/CalSWEC/OtherTraining\\_AfricanAmFathers.html](http://calswec.berkeley.edu/CalSWEC/OtherTraining_AfricanAmFathers.html) *California Social Work Education Center* at the University Of California, Berkeley, provides a curriculum for child welfare system personnel to work effectively with African American fathers.

## C. Related to Incarcerated & Returning Dads

26. <http://www.fatherhood.org/Corrections/> *InsideOut Dad™ Fathers Reentry Program* is designed to address the specific needs of incarcerated fathers. With 12 core sessions, 26 optional sessions and an additional reentry module, this curriculum is flexible and can be customized to fit with a wide variety of programs. Also available in Spanish as *Padre Adentro Y Afuera™* <http://www.fatherhood.org/insideoutdad/Spanish/>
27. <http://fcnetwork.org/resources/library/incarcerated-fathers-library> Family and Corrections Network offers the *Incarcerated Fathers Library* (downloadable resources for dads and those working with them).

## D. Related to Military Dads

28. <http://www.fatherhood.org/Military/> NFI resources for military dads include *Deployed Fathers and Family Guide*. This in-depth guide helps families create a deployment plan that includes strategies for dealing with finances, medical issues, power of attorney, and more. Also included are interactive exercises to help fathers stay connected to children - and to mom - even while far away.

## E. Related to Workforce Issues

29. [http://www.ppv.org/ppv/initiative.asp?section\\_id=26&initiative\\_id=8](http://www.ppv.org/ppv/initiative.asp?section_id=26&initiative_id=8) **Fathers at Work** was a three-year national initiative designed to help young, noncustodial fathers achieve increased employment and earnings, greater involvement in their children's lives, and more consistent financial support of their children. Findings suggest that the programs produced important benefits for participants, including increased earnings and child support payment. The National Center for Nonprofit Planning and Leadership (NPCL) was asked to provide technical assistance on fatherhood and child support, while P/PV was asked to provide assistance on employment and to evaluate the demonstration.

## F. Related to Head Start

30. <http://www.fatherhood.org/ffc-hs> Tool that helps assess the degree to which Head Start operations encourage father involvement in their activities and programs. Head Start has the **Male and Father-Involvement Initiative** [http://www.nhsa.org/services/general\\_services/fatherson\\_resources](http://www.nhsa.org/services/general_services/fatherson_resources) .

## G. Related to Schools

31. [http://www.fathers.com/content/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=21&Itemid=60](http://www.fathers.com/content/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21&Itemid=60) **WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)** is the father involvement initiative of the National Center for Fathering that organizes fathers and father figures in order to provide positive male role models for students and to enhance school security. News video, training, support materials are available. Fee-based.

32. <http://www.fatherhood.org/School/> School-based resources for dads from the **National Fatherhood Initiative**, including PTA recruitment kit and activities for dads to engage their children at various stages of development (pre-school, elementary school, adolescence).

## H. Related to Fathering Generally

33. <http://www.fatherhood.org/247Dad/> **24/7 Dad** is a community-based curriculum that helps men develop the attitudes, knowledge, and skills they need to get - and stay - involved with their children. Also available in Spanish (**Siempre Papa**): <http://www.fatherhood.org/SiemprePapa/>. **The 7 Habits of A 24/7 Dad™** is an eight-hour workshop that combines the fundamental fathering principles from National Fatherhood Initiative's **24/7 Dad™** programs with FranklinCovey®'s timeless 7 Habits <http://www.fatherhood.org/7habits/>.



- 34.** <http://www.fatherhood.gov/practitioners/resources/webinar-archives> **Webinar series** focusing on working with specific father populations, evaluation support and program implementation tools
- 35.** <http://www.fatherhood.org/webinars> The National Fatherhood Initiative offers a series of **capacity-building webinars** to help practitioners implement successful fatherhood programs in their communities. Webinar topics include training in NFI's curricula, and general "promising practices" training.
- 36.** <https://www.fatherhood.org/ffc> National Fatherhood Initiative's **Father Friendly Check-Up™** is designed to help organizations across multiple sectors determine how father friendly they are. The assessment analyzes an organization's physical environment/location, organizational philosophies, staff attitudes, and more to determine a father friendly "score." At the end of the check-up, organizations receive several recommendations to help them more successfully engage and educate fathers.
- 37.** <http://www.fatherhood.org/doctordad/> The **Doctor Dad** program, created by healthcare professionals, helps new dads learn the basics of child health and safety, increasing their knowledge and confidence while strengthening their parenting skills. **Doctor Dad™** includes an activities manual, facilitator's guide, handbooks that dads can keep, marketing posters and postcards, and a CD-ROM with power point and evaluation tools. The program can be supplemented with NFI's [New Dad's Pocket Guide](#), which provides portable, practical advice for new and expectant dads.
- 38.** <http://www.bootcampfornewdads.org/> **Boot Camp for New Dads** is a father-to-father, community-based workshop that inspires and equips men of different economic levels, ages and cultures to become confidently engaged with their infants, support their mates and personally navigate their transformation into dads. Boot Camp is now offered in 44 states and on U.S. military bases, and is expanding internationally. Resources also available in Spanish. Fee-based.
- 39.** <http://s4hsm.com/library/5232010DiscussionGuide.pdf> A partnership between the National Fatherhood Leaders Group and VH1 offers the **Dad Camp** TV show and discussion guide, which aims to generate awareness and discussion around the importance of fathers in children's lives. A licensed psychologist works with six fathers-to-be, along with their pregnant girlfriends, to help prepare the young men for fatherhood. Through parenting classes, personal challenges around responsibility, and group therapy sessions, the couples learn what it takes to be a good parent to their future child.
- 40.** <http://www.nurturingfathers.com/> The **Nurturing Father's Program** is a 13-week group-based program for developing attitudes and skills for male nurturance. Program includes facilitator's manuals, father's journals, posters, audio tapes and certificates of achievement. Research indicates its ability to improve White, Hispanic, and African American fathers' understanding of the developmental capabilities of children, ability to demonstrate empathy toward the needs of children, use of alternate strategies to corporal punishment, understanding and acceptance of the needs of self and children, and value placed on children feeling empowered. Additionally, the results suggested overall improvement in parental attitudes and behaviors that were known to contribute to child abuse and neglect. Fee-based.

## I. Related to Children with Special Needs

41. [www.fathersnetwork.org](http://www.fathersnetwork.org) *The Father Network* provides videos, DVDs, and useful information to fathers raising children with special needs and developmental disabilities.

## J. Related to Marriage

42. <http://www.fatherhood.org/whyknot/> *Why Knot? Marriage Readiness Program for Men* has six sessions centered on equipping men with the tools, attitudes, and skills they need to sustain a long, happy, and stable marriage to the mother of their children. The curriculum includes: Facilitator's Guide, Activities Manual, 10 Interactive Journals for each participant.

## K. Related to Domestic Violence

43. [http://www.cffpp.org/order\\_form.html](http://www.cffpp.org/order_form.html) The Center for Family Policy and Practice offers *Collaboration and Partnership GUIDE BOOK: Fatherhood Practitioners and Advocates Against Domestic Violence Working Together to Serve Women, Men, and Families* with Discussion Resources and DVD. Fee-based.

44.

<http://www.ihs.gov/medicalprograms/MCH/V/documents/FatheringAfterViolence.pdf>

The *Fathering After Violence* (FAV) initiative developed by the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF) seeks to enhance the safety and well-being of women and children by motivating men to renounce their violence and become better fathers (or father figures) and more supportive parenting partners. Not a program per se but a conceptual framework to help end violence against women, FAV uses fatherhood as a starting point. FVPF has developed culturally appropriate practical tools, prevention and intervention strategies, and policy and practice recommendations. FAV is exploring an assessment framework to help practitioners discern which fathers might be appropriate for repairing their relationships with their children and has introduced a reparative framework<sup>ii</sup> for those fathers who are in the position to start healing their relationships with their children in a safe and constructive way.

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