

National Fatherhood Organizations

BOOT CAMP FOR NEW DADS

Boot Camp for New Dads, formed in 1990, helps new fathers of all ages and income levels. Based in Irvine, California, this 100+ site community education program—usually based in hospitals, churches, community centers, and family resource centers—pairs first-time father “rookies” with “veteran fathers” who have babies two to five months old. The veterans help the rookies master basics such as how to hold, feed, change, and bathe their babies. New dads also learn about stages of child development and how to be supportive of their children’s mothers. Within a few months, the new dads return as veterans, continuing the cycle of community education by offering their best advice to the next class.

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CENTER FOR FATHERS, FAMILIES, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Fathers, Families, and Workforce Development (CFWD) empowers low-income families by enhancing the ability of men to fulfill their roles as fathers and of men and women to

contribute to their families as wage earners. Two beliefs are central to the CFWD approach: that men want to be emotionally and financially responsible for their children, and that poverty can hinder parental involvement and support. CFWD was founded in 1999, but its origins extend to 1993, when Joe Jones developed the Men’s Services for Baltimore’s federally funded Healthy Start Program. Program elements of CFWD currently include Men’s Services, the STRIVE job readiness program, and Partners for Fragile Families.

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CENTER FOR SUCCESSFUL FATHERING, INC.

The mission of the Center for Successful Fathering is to reconnect fathers with their children and with the traditions of responsible fatherhood. The center accomplishes its mission through research, public awareness, and training. Populations served by the center’s programs include new fathers, custodial and noncustodial fathers, incarcerated fathers, stepfathers, divorced fathers, grandfathers, and remarried fathers. The Center’s curriculum, *Accepting the Challenges of Fatherhood*, is a hands-on, play-oriented package for the implementation of fatherhood programs in schools and other community settings.

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**CENTER ON FATHERS, FAMILIES,
AND PUBLIC POLICY**

Founded in 1995 with support from the Ford Foundation, the Center on Fathers, Families, and Public Policy (CFFPP) is a training, technical assistance, and policy development organization. Its mission is to help create a society in which both mothers and fathers can support their children emotionally, financially, and physically. CFFPP also seeks to challenge the negative public perception of low-income fathers. Much of CFFPP's work has centered on reforming the child support enforcement system and bridging the gap between fatherhood organizations and women's organizations.

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CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COUNCIL, INC.

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nationwide, nonprofit children's rights organization that works to strengthen families through education and advocacy. CRC favors family formation and family preservation. But if families break up, or are never formed, it works to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family that the child would normally have during a marriage.

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FAMILY AND CORRECTIONS NETWORK

The Family and Corrections Network (FCN) is a not-for-profit, volunteer organization. Founded in 1983, FCN upholds families of offenders as a valued resource to themselves and their communities so that the criminal justice system, other institutions, and society become supportive of family involvement, empowerment, integrity, and self-determination. FCN has produced numerous publications on families of offenders, provided press information, made presentations before national and local organizations, produced policy recommendations, organized conferences, and provided technical assistance.

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FAMILY SUPPORT AMERICA

Family Support America (FSA) is a national alliance of people and organizations convinced that in order to do the best we can by our nation's children, we must strengthen and support America's families and neighborhoods. Founded in 1981, FSA builds networks, provides consulting services, and gathers knowledge to help the family support movement grow. The organization has an active fathers program and has included fatherhood tracks in its annual conferences.

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THE FATHERHOOD PROJECT,[®] FAMILIES AND WORK INSTITUTE

Perhaps the oldest national fatherhood organization in the country, The Fatherhood Project[®] is a

national research and education project that examines the future of fatherhood and develops ways to support men's involvement in child rearing, as well as practical strategies to support fathers and mothers in their parenting roles. The Fatherhood Project[®] helps businesses and social-service organizations adopt policies that support fathers as well as mothers.

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GREAT DADS

Great Dads provides training and a curriculum on fatherhood to fathers interested in making a difference in strengthening families and renewing American society. The program challenges fathers to combat pervasive father absence in America—both physical absence and emotional absence.

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**THE INSTITUTE FOR RESPONSIBLE
FATHERHOOD AND FAMILY
REVITALIZATION (IRFFR)**

IRFFR, founded in 1982, runs intensive, one-on-one outreach to families in six cities. At each site, a married couple runs the program and lives in the community to help provide an example of a healthy marriage for clients. The heart of the program is individual counseling sessions with fathers. Institute staff members believe that once fathers develop strong relationships with their children, other changes—including jobs, better relationships with their children’s mothers, marriage, and an end to substance abuse or criminal activity—will follow.

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MAD DADS

MAD DADS (Men Against Destruction—Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder) seeks to encourage, motivate, and guide committed men in the struggle to save children, communities, and themselves from the social ills that presently plague neighborhoods. MAD DADS employs strategies to engage men in the intervention and prevention of community problems, and is designed to attract, challenge, and prepare men

to be vocal, viable, and vigilant in restoring safe communities and healthy families.

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**MINNESOTA EARLY LEARNING
DEVELOPMENT (MELD)**

MELD seeks to prevent instances of emotional or physical abuse by creating a healthy family environment. MELD programs and curricula bring parents with common needs together into groups that meet over two years. They learn, grow, and become friends while solving problems and creating healthy families. Volunteer group facilitators are experienced parents who are carefully selected, trained, and supported by a MELD professional in each community. MELD began offering a curriculum for young fathers in 1990.

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THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR FATHERING

In addition to crafting a message that fathers are important to children, the National Center for Fathering tries to offer states, communities, and individual fathers ideas about what they can do to act on that message. The center offers a variety of seminars and small group materials, in addition to airing a nationwide radio program on fathering, all designed to help men become competent and comfortable in their roles as fathers. The center's products are tailored to specific audiences, including businesses, civic groups, social-service organizations, hospitals, schools, and faith communities. The National Center for Fathering frequently partners with the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR STRATEGIC NONPROFIT PLANNING AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, INC. (NPCL)

NPCL assists primarily low-income urban and rural communities to develop strong families. The organization provides technical assistance to the Strengthening for Fragile Families Initiative and the National Head Start Association, among

others. NPCL's Fatherhood Development curriculum provides a list of best practices for practitioners who are developing fatherhood services. The organization also has founded a Peer Learning College for child support professionals to help create policies and procedures more responsive to the needs of low-income fathers. NPCL frequently partners with and provides services to community foundations, including the Philadelphia Foundation and the Rose Community Foundation.

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NATIONAL CENTER ON FATHERS AND FAMILIES

The National Center on Fathers and Families (NCOFF) is a leading research center on fatherhood issues. NCOFF maintains the extensive Fatherlit database, which contains over 8,000 abstracts related to fathers and families. NCOFF holds the Fathers and Families Roundtable Series focused on research, practice, and policy-related issues; and runs the State Policy Series, which brings together state legislators, agency officials, nonprofits, and academics. NCOFF is dedicated to improving practice-derived research and research-informed practice, and works to build better linkages between activities that support

children and father involvement efforts. NCOFF also fosters relationships among state officials and practitioners as well as researchers and practitioners.

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NATIONAL COMPADRES NETWORK

The National Compadres Network (NCN) is a national effort whose focus is the reinforcement of the positive involvement of Latino males in the lives of their children and families. In November 1988 a group of Latino Hombres gathered to establish the “Circulo de Hombres,” a group focused on strengthening and re-balancing the role and responsibility of Hombres in their family and community. Among the projects of the NCN is the *Respetar y Leer* (Respect and Read) Campaign. This two-fold effort targets domestic violence prevention and literacy, encouraging Hombres, fathers, uncles, grandfathers, and big brothers to read to and spend time with their children.

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NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

The National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) was founded in 1994 to stimulate a societywide movement to confront the growing problem of father absence, and is dedicated to improving the well-being of children by increasing the number of children growing up with involved, committed and responsible fathers in their lives. NFI is a nonprofit, nonsectarian, nonpartisan organization. NFI is best known for its public-awareness campaigns promoting responsible fatherhood. NFI organizes conferences and community fatherhood forums, and provides training and resource materials to organizations seeking to establish community-based fatherhood programs. NFI publishes a quarterly newsletter, conducts research on fatherhood, works to enhance the effectiveness of public policies to encourage responsible fatherhood, and disseminates informational material to men seeking to become more effective fathers. NFI makes sure to have bilingual materials available and also offers support for specific populations of fathers through programs such as their Military Dads program and the Long Distance Dads program for incarcerated fathers.

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**NATIONAL LATINO FATHERHOOD AND
FAMILY INSTITUTE**

The National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute aims to meet the complex needs of Latino males with regard to their involvement in their families and community. Through research, training, and direct services the program assesses the development of fathers and their role in the family, as well as addresses issues such as child abuse, domestic violence, gang violence, illiteracy, and teen pregnancy.

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**NATIONAL PRACTITIONERS NETWORK
FOR FATHERS AND FAMILIES (NPNFF)**

NPNFF is a national membership organization for people and programs working to increase the responsible involvement of fathers in the lives of their children. Its current strategic plan is three-fold. First, NPNFF is trying to win fathers a spot on the agendas of children's, women's, and family organizations by creating a workshop and conference track. Second, NPNFF is developing a grassroots constituency for fatherhood issues. Third, the organization is undertaking a process to develop a set of program standards and standards of practice for responsible fatherhood services and practitioners.

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