

A QUICK LOOK at one of the NRFC's most popular resources:

Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit

RESOURCES FROM THE FIELD



Kenneth Braswell | NRFC Director

"You can use this toolkit to learn directly from the experiences of others who have pioneered successful fatherhood initiatives."

Research and practice have shown that successful fatherhood programs often have staff members with a deep passion for the work and leaders who can forge strategic alliances in their communities.

The Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit includes resources and tips from experienced practitioners to help guide fathers on their parenting journeys, strengthen families, and enhance child well-being.

Each section of the toolkit provides helpful resources and a summary of key takeaway points. You can also find hands-on-activities to use in your work with fathers.

Check it out!



STAFFING



HIRE STAFF

who can genuinely relate to the target population.

PROVIDE THOROUGH TRAINING

to ensure that all staff are professional and responsive to the needs of potential participants.

Joe Jones | Center for Urban Families

"Participants must know that if they slip and fall, we've got them...they have to feel they belong."

OUTREACH & RECRUITMENT



USE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

and marketing strategies to help your program connect with dads and prompt them to move from interest to involvement.

BE CULTURALLY RELEVANT

in language, pictures, and examples used in outreach materials, curricula, and other information shared with fathers and their families.

EXAMPLES OF KEY TIPS FOR WORKING WITH DADS

DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST with all participants. Fathers often face various challenges, not all of which will be apparent at the first or second encounter.



Barry McIntosh | Fathers New Mexico

"It's important to maintain a non-judgmental approach and build a relationship from the start."

RESPECT CULTURAL BELIEFS and practices of participants. Help them come to their own conclusions rather than relying on lecturing that insists they do things your way.



Wallace McLaughlin | Fathers & Families Center

"We make sure that everyone is welcome. You have to make your agency inviting. You need to understand the culture of your clients."



BE MINDFUL OF VARIATIONS

in household and relationship structures in which fathers, children, and mothers live.



PROVIDE MEANINGFUL SERVICES

to increase retention. Recommendations from satisfied participants can be the best recruitment tool.



OFFER COPARENTING TIPS

to minimize the effects on children of tension, stress, or conflict between coparents.



BE A POSTIVE ROLE MODEL

and display the attributes your fathers are trying to achieve.



Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit: Resources From the Field was written by Nigel Vann, who has worked with fatherhood programs since 1988. The toolkit features information that is based on existing research and qualitative, anecdotal, and secondary data analysis related to field-informed practices. The first edition was published in 2013 as an online document and limited printed copies were also made available to the fatherhood field. Subsequent sections were added to the online version in 2015 and 2016. The second edition was published in 2021 as a printable PDF document with updates to links and references and an updated section on the Development of the Responsible Fatherhood Field.