

ALAMEDA COUNTY FATHERS CORPS



“Through the work of the Fathers Corps, many lives are and will be changed in a very positive way.”

—FATHERS CORPS MEMBER

PROGRAMMATIC AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS BARRIERS TO FATHER ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ **REQUIRE** Father Friendly Principles be reflected in measurable contract outcomes for family service providers in Alameda County.
- ▶ **TRAIN** family service providers to engage fathers and increase the number of male staff.
- ▶ **ENSURE** family service programs that contract with the County include a fatherhood component.
- ▶ **CREATE** an Inter-Agency Fathers and Families Council to monitor policies and practices within the family court system, Social Services Agency, Health Care Services Agency and Probation.

The Alameda County Fathers Corps (ACFC) is a collaborative effort of First 5 Alameda County, Alameda County’s Health Care Services Agency and Social Services Agency. The ACFC promotes and supports fathers and father-figures to be meaningfully engaged with their children and families, and advocates for family service providers to provide father friendly services and to assist fathers in strengthening their parenting skills.

In 2015, the ACFC engaged in two data gathering projects to learn more about how to support fathers and barriers to fathers’ engagement with their children. The ACFC surveyed over 100 public and community based family service providers. The ACFC also conducted focus groups and one-on-one interviews with fathers who are not engaged in lives of their children. These efforts, along with lessons learned from the ACFC learning community, helped create the following policy and program recommendations:

For complete list, visit first5alameda.org/alameda-county-fathers-corps

2013-2017

FATHERS CORPS ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BUILDING PROVIDER CAPACITY

LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR MALE SERVICE PROVIDERS

91 male providers from 45 agencies/programs participated

60 Father Engagement Specialist, 18 Mentors, and 12 Ambassadors

94% reported that the Fathers Corps helped them to be a more knowledgeable, skillful and/or engaged provider

94% reported that the Fathers Corps helped them to be a better father, grandparent, or caregiver

FATHERHOOD TRAINING SERIES OPEN TO ALL PROVIDERS

10 trainings provided, attended by 268 unique providers

ASSESSING NEEDS AND BARRIERS

FOCUS GROUPS AND INTERVIEWS WITH DISENGAGED FATHERS

22 African American fathers and 9 Latino fathers participated

SURVEY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY SERVICE PROVIDERS

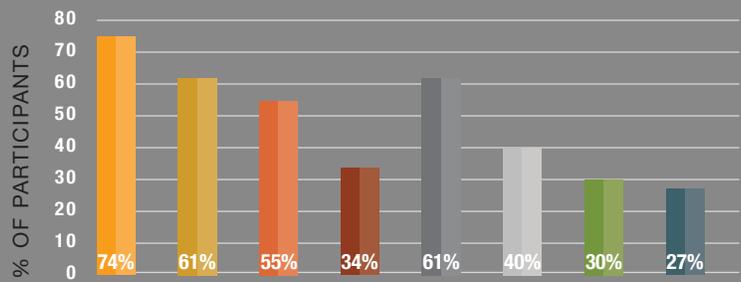
Survey completed by 111 providers

PROVIDING FATHER FRIENDLY PRINCIPLES TRAINING

21 TRAININGS PROVIDED TO PUBLIC SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS, ATTENDED BY OVER 500 UNIQUE PROVIDERS

In 2014, the ACFC adopted 7 Father Friendly Principles (FFP) to ensure service providers support fathers. Since then, many of the participants in the learning community have adopted the FFP at their agencies.

FATHERS CORPS PARTICIPANTS REPORTED FATHER FRIENDLY CHANGES AT THEIR AGENCIES



- POSTED FFP AT AGENCY
- PRESENTED FFP TO LEADERSHIP
- PRESENTED FFP TO STAFF
- FORMALLY ADOPTED FFP
- INCREASED OUTREACH TO FATHERS
- PROVIDED TRAINING TO STAFF ON WORKING WITH FATHERS
- CHANGED ENVIRONMENT
- HIRED MALE STAFF

CHANGING THE SYSTEM

FATHERHOOD STRATEGY IN FIRST 5 ALAMEDA COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN

EXPANDED COLLABORATION WITH ALAMEDA COUNTY'S DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES, HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY, PROBATION DEPARTMENT, AND SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY TO:

- ▶ Create father-specific services
- ▶ Launch media campaign to build awareness of the important role fathers play in the development of their children
- ▶ Host Fatherhood Action Summit with leaders to implement new policy and programs
- ▶ Establish Inter-Agency Fatherhood Workgroup

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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WITH SUPPORT FROM:

