

About National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI)

National Fatherhood Initiative® was founded in 1994 to reverse our nation's destructive trend towards father absence. Today, over 24 million American children live in homes in which their biological fathers do not live. On average, these children face a host of risks to their physical, economic, social, and emotional well-being as a result of living without the presence of an involved, responsible, and committed father. Therefore, NFI's mission is to transform organizations and communities by equipping them to intentionally and proactively engage fathers in their children's lives. Accordingly, we accomplish our mission by:

- **Educating** all Americans, especially fathers, through social media, earned media, research, and free resources.
- **Equipping** organizations and communities with fatherhood programs and resources, and through training, planning, and technical assistance services.
- **Engaging** and assisting organizations and communities to mobilize at the micro- and macro-level to increase father involvement in children's lives.

Since its founding, NFI has **distributed more than 7.5 million resources** to fathers, organizations, and communities.

In recent years, NFI has focused our efforts on the following core competencies, which drive our current activities.

Capacity-Building at the Organization Level

NFI builds the capacity of community-based, corrections, and military organizations seeking to begin or enhance fatherhood programs to benefit fathers, families, and especially children in their communities. Our services build capacity through father-friendly assessments, skills training, technical assistance, strategic planning, and community mobilization around fatherhood. Specifically:

- NFI is the nation's #1 trainer of organizations and staff on how to effectively engage fathers in the lives of their children. Since 2002, and through the second quarter of fiscal year 2016, NFI has trained 14,329 staff from 6,476 organizations in person on how to deliver our fatherhood programs. In addition, we have trained an additional 10,771 staff via webinar. NFI's evidence-based 24/7 Dad® program is the most widely used fathering program in the country among community-based organizations.
- NFI is the nation's #1 provider of fatherhood programs and resources for incarcerated fathers with half of the nation's state departments of corrections choosing NFI's evidence-based InsideOut Dad® program as their standard fathering program across all of their facilities for men.
- NFI is the nation's #1 provider of fatherhood programs and resources for military fathers. NFI's programs and resources are used in every branch of the military (on installations in the U.S. and abroad) and by many reserve and most National Guard units. We have distributed our programs and resources to installations in all 50 states, U.S. territories, and in many other countries (e.g. Japan, Turkey, Okinawa, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Korea, and the Netherlands).

Capacity Building at the State and Local Government Levels

NFI has extensive experience in executing state and local government contracts, subcontracts, and projects related to building and implementing sustainable fatherhood programs and services in a high-quality manner. NFI works with state and local agencies and programs to build their capacity in father engagement and the capacity of their grantees and partners.

Cultural Commentary

NFI continues to be a leading voice in the public square on the importance of involved, responsible, and committed fatherhood through disseminating research on the causes and consequences of father absence, conducting interviews with national media outlets, publishing commentaries on NFI-owned and third party media properties, and partnering with major entertainment media and consumer brand companies.

How NFI Works with States

NFI has partnered with states to help them build capacity at the community level to more effectively engage fathers and involve them in their children's lives. **NFI partners with state agencies to build capacity among direct-service providers they fund by:**

- Training providers on NFI's programs to establish a consistent program and evaluation approach.
- Training providers on how to mobilize cities or counties via NFI's **Community Mobilization Approach™**.
- Training providers on how to integrate engaging fathers in a specific effort (e.g. home visits and child welfare).
- Training providers on how to engage specific kinds of fathers (e.g. new fathers, incarcerated fathers, and military fathers).
- Helping providers create customized plans, via NFI's **Father Engagement Experience™**, to start and maintain a new or improve an existing fatherhood program or initiative.

NFI can also partner with a state agency or group of agencies to:

- Create a customized plan, via the Father Engagement Experience™, for promoting responsible fatherhood statewide.
- Hold a free webinar for grantees/local partners on NFI's programs and resources, and how to effectively use them.

How States Fund Work with NFI

States use discretionary state or federal funds to acquire NFI programs, resources, training, and technical assistance, or build them into proposals. Examples of funding sources include:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)
- Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRP)
- Child Support (Title IV-D)
- Second Chance Act

Contact Information

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