



# Congressional Update on Fatherhood Policies

for “*A Unified Voice for Fatherhood Initiatives*” Conference

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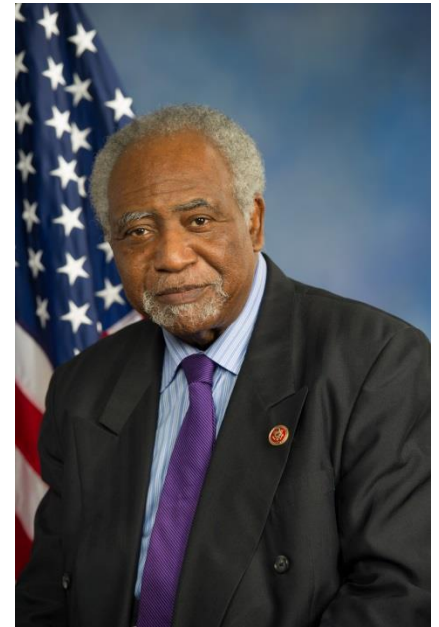
*Deputy Chief of Staff*

*for*

**Congressman Danny K. Davis**

*Chairman, Subcommittee on Worker &  
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# **Congressional Update on Fatherhood Policies**

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## *Overview*

- 1. Fatherhood Wins**
- 2. Programs in Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support Related to Fathers**
- 3. Feedback from Participants about Ways to Improve Fatherhood Grants**





# Fatherhood Wins

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- **Your Advocacy Helped Improve Federal Child Support Policies**
- **Recent Regulations (effective 01/19/2017) Included Key Elements of the *Responsible Fatherhood Act***
  - Focused on Actual Ability to Pay
  - No Longer Treats Incarceration as “Voluntary” Nonpayment
  - Included Better Reporting Data (e.g., Process of Setting and Modifying Child Support Obligations, Effect of Debt on Retention)
- **Delayed Implementation of Regs in Some States**
  - Some States May See Delayed Implementation of these Final Rules Due to Required Changes in State Law That Need to Happen First.





# **Congressional Update**

## **on Fatherhood Policies**

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- **Rep. Davis Chairs the Subcommittee on Worker & Family Support, *Committee on Ways & Means***
  
- **Fatherhood-Related Programs within Subcommittee Jurisdiction**
  - **Child Support**
  - **Child Welfare and *Family First Prevention Services Act* (P.L. 115-123)**
  - **Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage Grants**





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- **Child Welfare/Family First Prevention Services Act**
  - ***Preserving Families.*** States have repeatedly made the case they can reduce costs and keeps families together if they can use IV-E for prevention services.
  - ***Systemically Addressing Substance Use/Opioid Issues.*** A major reason kids come into foster care is parental substance abuse (nationally more than one in three, CT witness said than 60% and KY was about the same). We can help solve the substance abuse problem and avoid child trauma at the same time.





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- ***Family First: Title I, Prevention Services***
  - **Beginning in FY2020, Title IV-E (uncapped partial matching dollars) would be available for up to 12 months for services (per family/episode) for families of children who, without these services, would likely enter foster care, and pregnant and parenting foster youth. No income test, and families could be served for multiple episodes **without a gap between episodes.****
  - **These services would include:**
    - ❖ **Mental health services;**
    - ❖ **Substance abuse services; and**
    - ❖ **In-home parent “skill-based” programs (like parent training, home visiting, individual and family therapy).**





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- ***Healthy Marriage & Responsible Fatherhood Grants***
  - **Fatherhood Grants:** \$75 million for 35 Programs and 5 Re-entry Grants
  - **Healthy Marriage:** \$75 million for 46 Programs
  - **Funding:** Expires 6/30/2019  
(*grants are till 2020*)
  - **Call for Proposals:** Fall 2019





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- *How Can We Improve Fatherhood Grants?*
  - **What Are the Most Effective Models?**
  - **What Are the Best Practices (e.g., What Are the Critical Elements of Successful Programs?)**
  - **What Should Grants Focus On (e.g., Career Pathways, Child/Parent Relationships)?**
  - **Are There Particular Groups of Fathers to Prioritize (e.g., Fathers Who Are Incarcerated, Unemployed, Struggling with Child Support, Minority Fathers, Teen Fathers)?**
  - **How Should Funding Go Out?**







# **Congressional Update on Fatherhood Policies**

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- **Possible Davis Ideas**
  - **Promote Meaningful Relationships b/w Children and Incarcerated Parents**
  - **Encourage Job Training and Career Development**
  - **Help Programs Develop Research to Document Their Successes**





## How You Can Help

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- ***If Your State Has Implemented New Child Support Regs, Share with Rep. Davis How the New Regulations are Working –***
  - **What Are the Positive Changes You Have Seen?**
  - **Are There Problems that Aren't Being Solved?**
- ***If Your State Has NOT Implemented New Child Support Regs, Work with State to Implement the New Regulations***
- **Share with Rep. Davis Ideas to Improve Fatherhood Grants**
- **Share with Representatives Import of Fatherhood Grants**
- **Work with State Child Services Agency to See What Roles Fatherhood Programs Can Play in Family First Implementation**





# THANK YOU!

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