

Summary of Suggestions during Fatherhood Conference Call by Jill Hunter-Williams

Suggestions for tweaking the grants:

1. Reducing/capping individual grant amount in order to fund more grantees that are able to manage smaller grant amounts
2. Connecting local groups to agencies that do evidence-based practices already
3. Attaching research dollars to grant dollars to help build evidence base
4. Changing nature of grants to go more to state/local level, similar to the CSE State Access and Visitation grants that go out based on a ratio of unmarried families and help create some level of state infrastructure for such work.

Other options:

1. Use the CDC capacity-building grant model developed out of the HIV/AIDS response to help local programs build out their capacity.
2. Provide access to TTA and models to non-grantees so that they can build a case for future grant money, like a national technical assistance center.
 - a. Create a database of TTA experts for groups to contact (this might already exist in the form of the national responsible fatherhood clearinghouse, we just have to publicize it/make sure it works the way it's supposed to).
3. Provide more guidance on the clearinghouse and related processes.
4. Connect with other programs focusing on fatherhood, like Healthy Start groups, for input on how to engage fathers and address early childhood issues.
 - a. From Kenn Harris: The NHSA would be a great partner because we have 100 HS programs focusing on fatherhood recently funded through 2024. They represent urban, rural, tribal and border communities. The Healthy Start model requires that these projects have community consortium/community action networks that this group could tap into. I am willing to broker this connection!
5. Consider scaling up FRPN (Fatherhood Research and Practice Network) –to provide more evaluation help and technical assistance.

Priority groups:

1. Young fathers (teen/under 25)
2. Incarcerated fathers
3. Fathers-to-be/fathers of infants and young children so that we can focus on the effects of fathers on child literacy and learning

Critical Components of Effective Fatherhood Programs:

1. Ability to retain people
2. Dose/level of intervention (stronger outcomes associated with more intensive intervention)
3. Connect low-income fathers to comprehensive services, including: health, mental health, jobs, housing, food assistance, etc.
4. Adopt culturally-appropriate models.
5. Help build coalitions among agencies/organizations that serve fathers, including working with agencies to change policies to better help fathers

6. Peer group support
7. Strengths based approach to fathers that meets them where they are, addressing their needs in a positive way

Outcomes of Interest

1. Co-parenting relationship
2. Effects on children's literacy and learning
3. Contacts among fathers and children