



# The Blueprint

News from the Fatherhood  
Research & Practice Network

## **October FRPN Webinar Posted** Fatherhood and COVID-19: A Conversation About Practice, Research and Policy

How is the COVID-19 pandemic affecting fatherhood programs? For our latest webinar, FRPN convened a group of fatherhood practitioners, researchers and state officials to discuss adaptations, experiences, outcomes, lessons learned and research needed to more effectively serve fathers during this time.

### **Discussion topics highlighted:**

- New challenges being a father
- New programming formats
- Technology and staff training
- Virtual fatherhood summits
- Fatherhood policy
- Research on virtual formats
- Emerging research questions

View the webinar and download the presenter slides [here](#).



## Reports of FRPN Funded Studies

FRPN funded many new studies of programs for fathers. The final reports of these studies are available on our website, including:

### New Research on Mother Engagement and Coparenting

- Sarah Whitton, Kimberly Sperber and Harold Howard (Talbert House, Cincinnati, Ohio). ***Evaluating mother and nonresidential father engagement in coparenting services in a fatherhood program***
- Armon R. Perry and Aaron C. Rollins, Jr. ***Fatherhood and Coparenting***
- Jessica Pearson, Jay Fagan, Abbie Henson, "What Nonresident Mothers and Fathers have to Say about a Mother-Only Coparenting Intervention: A Qualitative Assessment of Understanding Dads™". *Families in Society*. Advanced online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1044389419899601>

## Strengthening Families Legislation Introduced

On October 23, 2020, Sens. Wyden, Van Hollen and Davis introduced **The Strengthening Families for Success Act of 2020**. Some key features include:

- Reauthorize the **Healthy Marriage Promotion and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRP)** grant program for five years (through FY 2025) and make improvements to promote coordination and partnership with domestic violence shelter and service organizations, establish infrastructure for HMRP grantees to measure outcomes and receive technical assistance, and support HMRP programs and ensure continuity of services during a public health emergency.
- Modernize child support by eliminating the use of child support collections to reimburse the State for TANF payments previously paid to families, foster care costs

and Medicaid birth costs by FY 2026.

- Establish a new five-year Parenting Time Services Pilot program that would provide payments to states, local governments, Indian tribes or tribal organizations and territories so that they can develop and implement uncontested parenting time agreements in child support orders.

Download this [one-pager overview](#) of the legislation.

## Contact Us to Learn More

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