

Fatherhood
Research
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Network

The Blueprint

News from the Fatherhood
Research & Practice Network

New Law, New Rules: How the One Big Beautiful Bill Act Affects Fathers' Access to Public Benefits

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This [new FRPN brief](#) outlines how the newly passed OBBBA affects fathers across four major policy areas: the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC), employer incentives for family-friendly benefits dealing with paid family leave and child care credits, MAGA newborn accounts, and increased work and reporting requirements for SNAP and Medicaid. While these measures include some positive developments for employed, unmarried fathers with sole custody and married fathers who automatically have custodial status, they offer little direct support to noncustodial, low-income, and/or informally involved fathers and may put them at risk of harm.



Policy in Action

Earlier this month, National Fatherhood Initiative® (NFI) held a webinar, Father Engagement Strategies for State Agencies. If you're interested in catching up, watch the [webinar](#), [review the slide deck](#), or download the [handouts](#).

Research Reports

A bipartisan group of scholars from the University of Virginia and partner institutions, such as the American Institute for Boys and Men, released [Good Fathers, Flourishing Kids](#), showing that children in Virginia thrive when fathers are present and engaged. The report finds that over 25% of Virginia children live without their fathers, and many experience limited contact, especially those with unmarried or formerly incarcerated dads.

A [new study](#) from the Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study finds that the quality of unmarried parents' relationships strongly influences father-child closeness by age 3. Supportive parental relationships lead to greater father involvement, while troubled relationships reduce it. These findings emphasize the need for interventions that strengthen parental relationships to promote secure bonds and healthy child development.

Equity and Transformation (EAT) and Fathers, Families, & Healthy Communities (FFHC) released a [report](#) on joblessness among Black men and fathers in Chicago, the structural barriers to economic stability that they face, and actionable policies and recommendations. And in a powerful [op-ed for Essence](#), by Dr. Clinton Boyd, Jr. of FFHC emphasizes the urgent need to invest in Black fathers and shift resources from punitive systems to supportive programs that empower Black fathers in order to strengthen Black families.

Funding Announcements

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is inviting states to apply for a [TANF pilot](#) that tests new ways to boost employment and reduce dependence on public benefits. Specifically, this pilot aims to support work, earnings growth, and family stability through innovative approaches. Up to five states will be selected. If interested, be sure to apply by **August 15, 2025**.

The Children's Trust has announced [a new funding opportunity](#) to support community-based nonprofits in launching or expanding father-specific programming. Proposals should aim to strengthen families by engaging and retaining fathers in services; supporting positive father-child relationships; promoting peer support and co-parenting; addressing service gaps for fathers; and modeling father-inclusive practices. If interested, be sure to apply by **August 15, 2025**.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and see you after Labor Day!

Contact Us to Learn More

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