

# The Blueprint

News from the Fatherhood  
Research & Practice Network

## Areas for Future Research Identified in FRPN Book

Edited by FRPN Co-Directors Dr. Jay Fagan and Dr. Jessica Pearson, *New Research on Parenting Programs for Low-Income Fathers* presents state-of-the-art findings of research on fatherhood programs funded by the FRPN. Based on the 13 studies that FRPN sponsored and featured, the book distills a set of learnings about fatherhood programs and practice. The distillation aims to build the evidence base on fatherhood programs and promote the use of evidence-informed practice. In this issue of *The Blueprint*, we highlight areas for future research identified in this book.

### **How to Increase Participation in Fatherhood Programs**

Higher program dosage tracks with positive outcomes for fatherhood program participants, yet attrition continues to be a major challenge. Although a recent brief highlights the importance of relevant workshops, dedicated staff, adaptable meeting formats (Avellar et al. 2020), more research is needed on the use of incentives in program recruitment and retention including hard skills training opportunities, drivers' license reinstatement, and other child support enhancements.

### **How to Teach Effective Parenting Behaviors**

Suggested approaches to teaching effective parenting behaviors include cognitive behavioral therapy (e.g., video modeling of desired parenting behaviors followed by recordings of father-child interactions that are subsequently reviewed and discussed with fathers), and blended approaches (e.g., skill building videos, father-child play activities, and smartphone reminders). Still another possible approach might involve group-based visiting in neutral settings well stocked with toys and staff members who can model and coach positive play behaviors with fathers in a nonthreatening manner. More research is needed on these and other approaches especially those suitable for use with nonresident fathers who may not enjoy the cooperation of the mothers of their children.

## How to Increase Father Engagement in Child Literacy

Fathers play a major role in the cognitive and literacy development of their children and one FRPN study examined [Real Dads Read](#), a literacy program based in 80 barbershops in African American neighborhoods in Atlanta. While both barbers and fathers held positive views about the program, more research is needed on how to promote father engagement and use of effective book-reading strategies. We also need to explore how fatherhood programs might collaborate with child care centers, libraries, and other programs to include fathers in early education and home book reading.

To learn more about these insights, [purchase \*New Research on Parenting Programs for Low-Income Fathers\*](#) today! Enjoy 20 percent off your purchase by entering FLR40 at checkout.



## FRPN Goes On Location with NCSEA

FRPN Co-Directors Dr. Jay Fagan and Dr. Jessica Pearson joined the National Child Support Enforcement Association's (NCSEA) On Location Podcast last week for the first of a two-part discussion on the findings of ***New Research on Parenting Programs for Low-Income Fathers***. Check out the interview on [Apple Podcasts](#) or anywhere you get your podcasts - Spotify, Google Podcasts, Breaker Anchor.fm, and more.

## Host a Fatherhood FLAME Event in Your Area

Are you ready to lead a conversation about responsible fatherhood in your community? Tune in to a [webinar](#) on July 28 to learn about the latest initiative of HHS' Office of Family Assistance (OFA) to strengthen local father engagement efforts.

Focusing the Fatherhood FLAME Community Conversations are dynamic, collaborative forums that your organization can hold locally to energize father-serving providers, advocates, and community leaders. Champion organizations approved to host FLAME Community Conversations will be equipped with the *free* FLAME Starter Kit, a turnkey package of conference content with comprehensive how-to guides and templates. The FLAME Starter Kit includes ready-to-use event materials and exclusive session content featuring engaging speakers, all with easy customization to local needs.

Learn more at the [Focusing the Fatherhood FLAME website](#) and register [here](#) for the July 28 webinar.

## FRPN Participates in Ascend at Aspen Institute Project

As we reimagine public systems and services to work better for families, we have an opportunity to do so in a way that honors the full diversity of family structures, as families themselves define them, and builds upon families' inherent resilience. This requires an intentional and explicit commitment to applying a gender lens inclusive of fathers to our analyses of family-supportive policy, practice, and research. [Bringing Fathers Into Focus for Child and Family Well-Being](#) is an analysis of challenges and opportunities for leaders and entities committed to the well-being of children and families to more effectively engage fathers for family prosperity.

Prioritizing innovations that build family well-being by intentionally and simultaneously moving children and the adults in their lives toward economic security, educational success, and health – FRPN partnered with Ascend at the Aspen Institute on the development of this analysis.

### Contact Us to Learn More

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