

Fatherhood  
Research  
& Practice  
Network

# The Blueprint

News from the Fatherhood  
Research & Practice Network

## Fatherhood Updates

The Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) [announced](#) the first round of grant recipients for its inaugural Fatherhood Grant Program. The grant program will invest approximately \$5 million dollars in funding to support public, private, and nonprofit organizations serving fathers in East, West, and Middle Tennessee. Ten organizations were selected to receive funding.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance (OFA) recently recruited [reviewers](#) for several federal programs, including the \$150 million Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF) demonstration grant program. The HMRF Fatherhood FIRE grant is [forecasted](#).



## Upcoming Conferences

The 27th annual [International Fathers and Families Practitioners Conference](#), sponsored by National Partnership for Community Leadership (NPCL), will take place in Bethesda, MD on June 1-3, 2025. In alignment with this year's theme, Making a Difference for Generations to Come, practitioners will gather to strengthen the community of responsible fatherhood practitioners, discuss and share ideas on the essential role of fathers in families to reduce child poverty and collaborate on the future direction of the fatherhood field.

The 2025 [National Council on Family Relations \(NCFR\) Annual Conference](#) will be held in Baltimore, MD on November 19-22, 2025. This year's conference theme, Power, Privilege, and Difference: Lived Experiences of Changing Families and Societies, aims to create opportunities for researchers, theorists, and practitioners in the family field to enhance their understanding and effectiveness in fostering meaningful change within their communities.

## Recent Research

Two recent briefs, [one](#) from the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and [one](#) from the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), highlight the impacts of the American Rescue Plan Act's temporary expansions to several tax credits — the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit, and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit — which are designed to offset parents' costs of raising children. These briefs complement the recent [FRPN brief](#) on the unique benefit of expanding the EITC to noncustodial parents who are typically treated as childless workers and receive little-to-no benefit.

A new [brief](#) published by the federal Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) shows that younger fathers differ from older fathers in a number of ways. The brief highlights the challenges that may hinder young fathers' recruitment and engagement in Responsible Fatherhood programs and proposes strategies for successful recruitment and engagement.

[The University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension Institute of Human Development & Relationships](#) conducted a Fatherhood Needs Assessment to understand how Wisconsin fathers define fatherhood, what they need most, and how to support them in their programming. The [assessment report](#) (and accompanying [executive summary](#)) identify concrete solutions to better meet fathers' needs in parent programming.

## Contact Us to Learn More

FRPN Director [Jessica Pearson, PhD](#) | [Director, Center for Policy Research](#)



© 2025 Fatherhood Research & Practice Network. All rights reserved

The Fatherhood Research and Practice Network is a project of the Center for Policy Research in Denver, Colorado. The contents are solely the responsibility of the Fatherhood Research and Practice Network and the Center for Policy Research.

