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The Blueprint

News from the Fatherhood
Research & Practice Network

From Data to Action: Using The *\$154 Billion Man Report* to Support Greater Investments in Fathers Webinar

The *\$154 Billion Man: The Economic Argument for Investing in Fathers*, authored by Center for Policy Research (CPR) and National Fatherhood Initiative® (NFI) updates NFI's landmark 2006 study by examining federal spending associated with father-absent households. Using federal budget data and the Survey of Income and Program Participation, the report finds that in 2018 the U.S. spent \$154.2 billion—about 4% of the federal budget—across 14 major assistance programs supporting children and mothers in father-absent households, a 54.5% increase since 2006. The report makes the economic case for investing in low-income fathers through preventive policies—such as paid family leave, workforce training, expanded tax credits, and evidence-based fatherhood programs—to boost the economic capacity of fathers, strengthen families, reduce child poverty, and lower long-term taxpayer costs. Find the report [here](#).

On March 17, 2026, from 2-3:30 p.m. ET, join NFI, CPR, and leaders in the fatherhood field and state-level fatherhood work to learn key report findings and practical ways to advocate for greater investment in fathers. Find more information on the webinar and register [here](#).



Resources Related to *The \$154 Billion Man Report*

Blog post: Kenneth Braswell, CEO of Fathers Incorporated, wrote a [blog post](#) on Dads Pad Blog discussing strengths of *The \$154 Billion Man* report, how fatherhood programs can utilize the report, and strategic ways that Fathers Incorporated intends to use the report.

Report: An October 2025 [report](#) from the Annie E. Casey Foundation reinforces the impact of public policies and programs, particularly their capacity to reduce child poverty. In 2024, the child poverty rate was 13% and without support from government assistance programs, it would have reached 25%. Of children living in poverty, 61% lived in families with at least one working parent.

Webinar: Urban Institute is hosting a [webinar](#) on March 6, 2026 from 12-1 p.m. ET to present a new tool showing state-by-state data on how people receive safety net benefits. The tool offers information on eligibility and participation estimates for seven public assistance programs, most of which are included in *The \$154 Billion Man* report, as well as eligibility estimates for the refundable child tax credit and the earned income tax credit.

Tax Policies, Family Wellbeing, and Low-Income Fathers

A new [feature](#) from the Urban-Brooks Tax Policy Center tells five stories about fictional families, that have low and moderate incomes, and the challenges that they face filing taxes and claiming federal tax benefits, including the earned income tax credit (EITC) and child tax credit (CTC). Evidence-based solutions are presented that can help ensure the tax system works for all families. A January 2025 [FRPN brief](#) discusses and presents state-by-state information on state minimum wages, EITCs, and CTCs, and describes state efforts to inform low-income parents about the need to file a tax return to obtain federal and state tax credits for which they may be eligible.

Request for Public Comment on Proposed Information Collection Activity (HMRF Performance Measures and Additional Data Collection)

Public comments are being accepted until March 30, 2026, on proposed revisions to the Administration for Children and Families' performance measures data collection and reporting for the newest cohort of Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF) grantees. Find more information [here](#).

Contact Us to Learn More

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