



Fatherhood
Research
& Practice
Network



The Blueprint

News from the Fatherhood
Research & Practice Network

Fatherhood Legislative and Research Updates

Louisiana Establishes a Commission on Fatherhood Engagement

Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry signed [Senate Bill 435](#) into law on May 29, establishing the Louisiana Commission on Fatherhood Engagement within the Office of the Governor. The commission will be formally established on August 1 and is charged with promoting father engagement, identifying funding for fatherhood programs and employment services, assisting fathers with child custody and family court proceedings, and organizing a state fatherhood summit at least once every four years. The commission mandate includes a specific focus on low-income and incarcerated fathers.

Ohio Becomes Fourth State to Require Schools to Teach the "Success Sequence"

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed [Senate Bill 276](#) on July 8, making Ohio the fourth state—along with Utah, Tennessee, and Indiana—to require schools to teach the "success sequence," or the idea that completing high school, working full time, and marrying before having children reduces the likelihood of poverty in adulthood. Ohio public schools will be required to incorporate the instruction into grades 6–12 beginning with the 2026–27 school year. The bill drew bipartisan debate, with critics arguing that the sequence oversimplifies poverty and stigmatizes students from single-parent households.

Research Reports from the Indiana Father and Families Center

Indiana's [Father and Families Center](#) (FFC) recently published two research reports, a [Strong Fathers Program Evaluation](#)—which estimated the effectiveness of their fatherhood programming—and an [Economic Impact Evaluation](#)—which estimated the economic impacts of their program operations in Marion County, Indiana, and the economy. The Strong Fathers Program Evaluation included the use of [FRPN's Father Engagement Scale](#) and found that father participants showed immediate and long-term improvements their engagement around parenting, personal wellbeing, economic capacity, and coparenting. It also highlights the effectiveness of using practical, evidence-based programming approaches, such as offering post-program services, developing community partnerships, and building a culture of intentional relationships and trust. Importantly, the Economic Impact Evaluation shows the benefits of that programming. In 2024, FFC generated an estimated total economic impact of \$5.6 million which includes an estimated 26 jobs created and \$2.2 million in labor income. FFC also contributed to state and regional local governments in the form of taxes. This return on investment (ROI) research shows that FFC benefits not only participants in their fatherhood programs, but also the local economy.

When Economic Instability Undermines Fatherhood

Today's fathers aren't just expected to provide financially — they're also expected to be hands-on, emotionally present caregivers. A [study](#) (summarized [here](#)) out of Washington University in St. Louis finds that fathers have internalized the need to succeed at both simultaneously. Even for fathers who *are* actively involved with their kids, having low wages, not working full-time, or not owning a home can undermine how they feel about themselves as parents. When fathers feel like they're falling short, the research suggests they're more likely to disengage from parenting altogether. Programs that focus only on parenting skills without addressing the economic piece may be missing what's actually driving that disengagement.





2026 Kids Count Data Book Highlight Increases in Child and Family Poverty

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's annual [Kids Count Data Book](#) offers a useful data point for framing conversations about the families that fatherhood programs serve. Child poverty nearly tripled to 13% in 2024, not because families changed, but because pandemic-era supports like the expanded Child Tax Credit expired. The data reinforce what much of this year's newsletter coverage has pointed to: economic conditions facing low-income fathers and families are highly responsive to policy, not just individual behavior.

Reminder - Federal Rule on Employment Services for Noncustodial Parents Proposed for Rescission

The Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) is proposing to rescind a [2024 final rule](#) that allowed state and tribal child support agencies to use federal IV-D funds for employment and training services for noncustodial parents (NCPs). The rule was intended to improve NCPs' economic stability and, in turn, the regularity of child support payments. The comment period is open through August 10. Comments can be submitted at [regulations.gov](#) using docket number ACF-2026-0100.

Upcoming Virginia Summit on Boys, Men, and Fatherhood

The [Virginia Blueprint](#), a one-day working summit co-hosted by the Virginia Advisory Commission for Boys and Men and the Virginia Coalition for Boys and Men, will be held on September 18 for those working with males throughout the country. The [agenda](#) includes networking, expert panels, proof of practice case study presentations from program leaders, and a social impact shark tank where participants can compete to win \$10,000 for their project advancing boys, men, and fatherhood. Applications for the [presentations](#) and [shark tank pitches](#) are due August 15.

See You at the 2026 National Fatherhood Summit!

August 3–5, 2026 | Dallas, Texas | [Register here](#)

The [National Fatherhood Summit](#) brings together parents, practitioners, and researchers from across the country to advance the field of responsible fatherhood. CPR and FRPN's Jacque Whearty and Betty Tegegne will be presenting findings from our recent national scan of state-level fatherhood initiatives on Wednesday, August 5, 10–11:15 a.m. CT. Excited to see you there!

Contact Us to Learn More

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

© 2026 Fatherhood Research & Practice Network. All rights reserved

The Fatherhood Research and Practice Network is supported by 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.