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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

Center for Policy Research (CPR) and National Fatherhood Initiative® (NFI) held a webinar on March 17, 2026, to present and discuss their new report ***\$154 Billion Man: The Economic Argument for Investing in Fathers***. The report updates and compares expenditures for 14 government assistance programs that help to mitigate some of the negative effects of childhood poverty. The panel discussion featured Kimberly Dent, Executive Director, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood; Sherry Richardson, Title V Family Engagement Manager, Georgia Department of Public Health; and Richard Reeves, President, American Institute of Boys and Men. The report's findings include:

- A 54.5% increase in expenditures to single mother-headed households for 14 government assistance programs between 2006 and 2018
- A note that this report is an underestimation of the true cost of government assistance since it doesn't include required state match, indirect costs, and many government assistance programs for which information on the household type of recipients is unavailable
- The use of food, nutrition, and early childhood programs by all types of single mother-headed households (separated/divorced, widowed, and never married)
- The overrepresentation of never married single mother-headed households in utilizing programs to alleviate poverty

Key policy and program recommendations include:

- Improving the economic position of non-college-educated fathers
- Remediating persistent labor market disparities faced by fathers of color
- Supporting all families to reduce the cost and stress associated with childrearing

Download a copy of the report and a practical guide on how it can be used [here](#) and access the

Download a copy of the report and a practical guide on how it can be used [here](#) and access the recording of the webinar [here](#).



Recent Resources that Also Address the Economic Precarity of American Households

An Urban Institute [report](#) that updates and enhances the true cost of economic security (TCES) and explores what it takes to be economically secure in the United States today for different subgroups of the population using publicly accessible data for 2023. Some key findings include:

- Almost 90% of people in single-parent families fall below the TCES threshold
- 48% of all people living in families with two children and two or more adults under age 65 do not have enough resources to cover their costs
- Over 40% of people living in families with a full-time, full-year worker lack the resources to meet the TCES threshold
- While 41% of white, non-Hispanic people fall below the TCES threshold, this is the case for 64% and 66% of Black and Hispanic people, respectively
- People who fall below the TCES threshold have low resources rather than high costs while those who thrive have higher earnings and other market income

An Urban Institute [data tool](#) that shows who is eligible for key federal benefits, how many eligible people receive them, and where access falls short on a state-by-state basis. Many of these federal programs are also included in the ***\$154 Billion Man*** report.

An Urban Institute [brief](#) that highlights seven evidence-backed strategies that state and local policymakers can implement to improve earnings (through better jobs and pay) to make life more affordable for working Americans.

2026 National Fatherhood Summit

Save the date for the [2026 National Fatherhood Summit](#) on August 3-5, 2026, in Dallas, TX!

Contact Us to Learn More

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