



Family Resource Center Association

## Colorado Fatherhood Initiative News

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### Welcome!

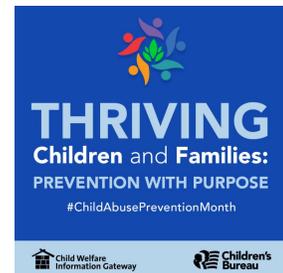


Welcome to the Colorado Fatherhood Initiative e-newsletter to support awareness about various opportunities across the Colorado Fatherhood Network. In 2019, Family Resource Center Association (FRCA) was approached to house and facilitate the Colorado Fatherhood Network (CFN). Since that time, FRCA has engaged in a research project and funding to develop resources and strategies to support the Colorado Fatherhood Network. The purpose of this newsletter is to foster connection and communication among CFN members with the aim of creating a collaborative effort to share resources and information with one another. Content will change with each e-newsletter; however, the intention is to include information on best practices for engaging fathers, program spotlights, information on trainings and webinars, and updates from FRCA.

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### April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!

Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. Prevention services and supports help protect children, strengthen protective factors, and produce thriving families. Fathers play a crucial role in child development and family dynamics, and research shows fathers can serve as a protective factor in their children's lives. According to the [National Fatherhood Initiative](#), involved dads improve their children's overall emotional and social well-being, and children with involved dads are significantly less likely to experience abuse and neglect.



Source:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/>

U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). *Living arrangements of children under 18 years old: 1960*

## Recruiting and Engaging Fathers

In emerging research, there are concrete and applicable benefits to engaging fathers in family services. The National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) reports that US Census data shows more than one in four children live without a father in the home, and that those raised in father-absent homes are at four times greater risk of poverty and are at two times greater risk of infant mortality, obesity, and high-school drop-out. There are benefits to having father-specific programs that facilitate peer support, parenting skills, and sense of community. In addition, according to the National Fatherhood Initiative, there is growing empirical evidence that supports having a framework focused on co-parenting can be most effective in supporting dads and their children. There are significant barriers to engaging fathers in family services, including time of services, work schedule, and fear and anxiety. Please see below for suggestions from NFI on parent recruitment strategies:



- Build a solid foundation in your organization
  - Commitment from leadership and staff of organization
  - Willingness to try creative, innovative strategies, and a commitment to measure their effectiveness
  - An effective “hook” to recruit fathers that can include additional services or programs specific to this population that may not focus on parenting (i.e., job training and support, education services, financial support)
- Recruitment tactics
  - Word of mouth marketing, “bring a friend” events, referrals from dads established in your program
  - Use attention-getting and positive portrayal of fathers in print materials and social media posts that appeal to men. See example here [#dadication](#)
  - Have an orientation session where participants can receive a presentation on the program and opportunities
  - Recruit diverse dads. As we all know, there is no “standard” dad and focusing recruitment strategies to encompass the diverse needs of dads can lead to better success
  - Be mindful about how recruitment strategies have changed

with COVID-19 and that “out and about” opportunities may be limited, but partnering with schools, grocery stores, housing complexes, and community places/events are effective options. Social media and virtual tactics are great as well!

Source:

<https://www.fatherhood.org/keeping-fathers-interested-in-fatherhood-program>

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## **E-Newsletter Poll**

We'd like your help selecting a name for this e-newsletter!

Suggested names:

- Colorado Fatherhood Initiative News
- FatherFeature
- DadDialogue
- Colorado Fatherhood Network News

[Vote Here](#)

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## **We Would Love to Hear From You!**

The goal of this E-newsletter is a collaborative effort in which everyone feels welcome to participate and share articles and information. Please submit any articles or information regarding:

- Job opportunities in the nonprofit fatherhood sector
- Funding opportunities
- Upcoming program and community events
- Upcoming trainings and webinars
- Father success stories
- Any news to share about Fatherhood programming and support across Colorado

Please submit content to [Tess McShane](#).

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## **FRCA Fatherhood Report Update**

Public Awareness & Community Norms	Whole Family Services	Quality Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social Equity</b> for Fathers (individual, program, organization and system levels)</li> <li>• <b>Collaborative Breakthrough Series</b> (Organization/system levels)</li> <li>• <b>Policy and Advocacy</b> (father involvement in local and state system decision-making efforts)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Co-parenting</b> perspective even if a father lives outside the home and/or is currently not involved in his child's life</li> <li>• <b>Embed Father-friendly outreach and engagement strategies</b> in all family and parent programs and services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Implementation Science:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Leadership Drivers</li> <li>○ Competency Drivers</li> <li>○ Organization Drivers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Standards of Quality for Fatherhood Programs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Programmatic Indicators</li> <li>○ Organizational Indicators</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcomes:</b> Increased father engagement in program participation  Increased father involvement in his co-parenting/family role  Increased father participation in local/state advisory and policy-making groups</p>		

In 2020, Family Resource Center Association (FRCA) contracted with Virginia Howey, non-profit consultant, to conduct research via surveys and interviews to explore current fatherhood services visions for programs and services, and best practices in supporting fathers across Colorado. In April 2021, FRCA was able to share research results with respondents and discuss how these results can inform next steps and implementation strategies. Please see the graphic for key results and outcomes from the FRCA report. Stay tuned for more information and news about next steps and implementation of strategies based on the Fatherhood Report. The full Executive Summary is available on FRCA's [website](#).

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## Dad Jokes

What do you call a fake noodle? *An impasta.*

What do you call a fish with no i? *Afsh.*

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? *Great food – no atmosphere!*

Why do dogs float in water? *Because they are good buoys.*

Source: <https://www.rd.com/article/dad-joke-tweets/>

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## Trainings & Webinars

***Supporting Co-parenting and Fathers in Programming*** presented through the Colorado Teen Parent Collaborative

**When:** Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2:30-4pm MST

**Who:**

- Dr. Norma Perez-Brena, Ph.D., Texas State University

- Dr. Rebecca Faust, Ph.D., Tufts University
- Demetrious Jenkins, Fatherhood Initiative Coordinator, Families Forward Resource Center

**What:** This discussion will include presentations on co-parenting strategies, and strategies for recruiting and engaging teen fathers in programs. Dr. Norma Perez-Brena will discuss her experience adapting co-parenting curriculum for teen parents and Dr. Rebecca Faust will provide information about her work studying home visiting programs and successful strategies she observed with the recruitment and retention of young mothers and fathers in these programs. Finally, Demetrious Jenkins will provide a Colorado perspective, discussing his work to facilitate a fatherhood group at the Families Forward Resource Center in Denver. Please use [this link](#) to register and for more information. There is a \$20 fee for one-time registration to a webinar event.

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“The heart of a father is the masterpiece of nature”  
*Antoine Francois Prevost*

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## Free National Resources

[National Fatherhood Initiative Resource Library](#)

[Fatherhood Resource Hub](#)

[National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse](#)

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## Contact Information

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