

## Benefit of Parent Voices

- Increases likelihood that parents will participate in programs and services
- Helps identify program and policy-level barriers to accessing services
- Informs family-friendly and relevant program, service and policy development
- Increases participation that can lead to improved child and whole-family outcomes

Parents bring highly valued perspectives to the development, implementation and evaluation of child- and family-focused programs, services and policies.

The purposeful inclusion of fathers has been proven to add a valuable perspective of the family story that may otherwise be missing.

## Why Focus on Adding Dad's Voice?

1. Dads hold a unique perspective that can help identify problems and create innovative solutions
2. Dads' input into the development, implementation and evaluation of programs, policies, and community initiatives at local, regional, state and national levels increases the likelihood that more dads will participate in services that impact child and family outcomes
3. Dad's involvement has been proven to increase positive lifelong child outcomes in many areas:
  - Early Education and School
  - Social Connections
  - Juvenile Justice
  - Behavior
  - Economic Security
  - Health & Mental Health
  - Alcohol & Substance Abuse



## Where Dads Can Engage

Dads can engage in any planning or decision-making group where their unique perspective can inform practices, procedures, or policies. Examples include:

- Parent Advisory Committees
- Policy Change Think Tank
- Community Initiatives
- Decision-Making Councils
- Advocacy Groups
- Boards of Directors
- Task Forces
- Family Voice Councils

### For more information...

<a href="#"><u>Elevating Parent Voices</u></a>	A series of resources to support elevating parent voices through an equitable lens, including advocacy; strategies to support listening sessions and communication with families.
<a href="#"><u>Encourage Parent Voice in Schools</u></a>	This resource explores the benefits of parent voice in school decisions and strategies to better engage parents in the school community.
<a href="#"><u>Benefits of Father Engagement in Programs and Services</u></a>	This report explored the success and impact of strategies to engage fathers in human service programs, and the benefits for programs, fathers, and their children.
<a href="#"><u>KEEP Fathers Engaged</u></a>	This resource showcases the benefits of father engagement in programs and services through reports, infographics, case studies, and more.
<a href="#"><u>Father Involvement Facts</u></a>	These infographics share data on the benefits of father involvement in families.
<a href="#"><u>Family Voice Council</u></a>	Learn more about the Colorado Department of Human Services Family Voice Council, including the purpose, impacts, and resources associated with this statewide effort.
<a href="#"><u>Family Voice Compass</u></a>	Resources to support development of a family voice council for state, regional, and local decision-making efforts.

