

Commission Meeting Executive Director's Report Nov, Dec 2023 & Jan 2024

Funding:

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF) is funding the following programs:

- **9 Multi-County Grantees Approved for Funding**
 - Action for Children
 - Early Childhood Resource Center
 - ForeverDads
 - Passages Connecting Fathers and Families
 - Talbert House
 - Community Action Organization of Scioto County
 - Montgomery County Office of Strategic Initiatives
 - Pathway/Brothers United in Lucas County
 - Starts Within Organization

- **7 Pilot Projects Funded**
 - Advocates for Educational Equity and Excellence – Fathers at the Education Table, the Forgotten Experts
 - CLEAN (Choices, Leadership, Energy, Attitude, Now) Way Enterprises
 - Cuyahoga County PCSA/Passages Fatherhood – EPIC (Engaging Practices to Inspire Change)
 - Fairfield County TeenWorks – No Kidding Ohio
 - Ohio Collective – Families Read
 - Stark County Legal Aid – The Parenthood Project
 - Urban Family Development Center– Dads2B

TANF Grantee Meetings, Events, and Conference Calls:

- The OCF team hosted all nine Serving, Educating, and Empowering (SEE) Fathers Program grantees in Columbus at Action for Children. This was the final day of orientation. The grantees heard from the state Children Services staff, as well as staff from the Office of Child Support.
- Joshua visited with OCF-funded fatherhood program, ForeverDads. Joshua met with staff, attended a fatherhood class, and watched ForeverDads' baby shower for moms in the neighborhood. The monitoring site visit was successful.
- Joshua represented OCF at the 13th annual White Ribbon Campaign in Cleveland, OH. He spoke about the importance of healthy and responsible fathers, which includes fathers who take the White Ribbon pledge to not participate in, condone, or remain silent about intimate partner and family violence. Young men from a local high school joined the event and took the pledge. Various other community organizations were in attendance.
- Kim and Joshua visited with OCF-funded fatherhood program, Early Childhood Resource Center, in Canton, OH. Kim and Josh met with staff and discussed programming. The monitoring site visit was successful.
- Joshua and Ashiko visited with OCF-funded fatherhood program, Montgomery County Strategic Initiatives (Fatherhood Initiative), in Dayton, OH. Josh and Ashiko met with staff, discussed fatherhood programming, visited with staff at the Jobs Center, and heard from a father who went through the Reentry program. The monitoring site visit was successful.
- Joshua visited with OCF-funded fatherhood program, Community Action Organization of Scioto County, in Portsmouth, OH. Josh met with staff and discussed fatherhood programming. The monitoring site visit was successful.
- Ashiko attended the Franklin County Fatherhood Coalition meeting held at the Columbus Museum of Art. This meeting is designed to bring local practitioners together to discuss fatherhood focused events, news, activities, and best practices. Ashiko continues to attend and serve with this coalition on a monthly basis.

TANF Grantee Meetings, Events, and Conference Calls:

- OCF Executive Director met with Ms. Tiffany Edwards with Families Read. OCF funds Families Read, which is a program that promotes and implements strategies that encourage fathers to read with their middle school and high school students.
- OCF Executive Director and Manager of Operations attended the Walking Logo graduation at London Corrections. Starts Within Executive Director Carlos Christian invited OCF staff to attend the graduation of incarcerated fathers from the Walking Logo program.
- OCF staff met with the peer educators from No Kidding Ohio Fairfield. One of the peer educators is returning to the program and the other peer educator is new to the program. The peer educators will engage middle and high school youth on the difficulties to being a young parent (pregnancy prevention).
- OCF Executive Director provided comments at the Montgomery County Fatherhood Conference at Sinclair College.
- OCF Executive Director continues to meet with staff from Passages and Northeast Reintegration (women's prison) to plan the upcoming Motherhood Conference. The planned dates are May 31-June 1, 2024.
- OCF Executive Director met with staff from Passages and MDRC. MDRC is currently working with Passages on various HHS (Health and Human Services)/ACF (Administration for Children and Families)/OFA (Office of Family Assistance) funding projects. MDRC is interested in more closely working with Passages and father's rights/access to their children.
- OCF Executive Director, Manager of Operations, and Program Administrator met with Ms. Leslie Hoctor at Talbert House to hear a draft of the co-parenting model used in their Fatherhood programming.
- OCF Executive Director, Manager of Operations, and Program Administrator met with staff from Passages and subsequently staff from Urban Family Development to offer additional funding for their pilot projects. OCF will not fund the number of counties anticipated to complete the Ohio County Fatherhood Mobilization Initiative project; therefore, has allocated funds to projects that were underfunded due to the cut in the SFY 2024 budget.



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State Agency Collaboration:

- The November 2023 Commissioners' meeting was hosted at the Vern Riffe building in Downtown Columbus on Thursday, 11/2/2023. The Commissioners heard from the staff of OCF-fatherhood program, Passages.
- The OCF Team met with OhioJFS-Office of Child Support (OCS) staff. OCS is seeking input from counties about interest in a federal grant being released by Health and Human Services (HHS). OCF agreed to help OCS with father engagement. This grant (Next Gen) will be released soon and encourages a Fatherhood component. Ongoing meetings are planned.
- The OCF Team joined other OhioDCY staff during its All-Staff meeting on 11/9/2023. OhioDCY Executive leadership team was introduced to OhioDCY staff. Director Wentz also spoke about the mission and vision of OhioDCY. Finally, OhioDCY staff heard from a local county children services case worker who was in the system as a child. She shared her story about a county case worker who changed her life for the better.
- Joshua represented OCF as a panelist on an OCALICON panel. The topic was Ohio Department of Developmental Disability's (OhioDODD) Bringing Fathers Forward program. The panel discussed fatherhood programming in Ohio, as well as the need to support fathers who have children with developmental disabilities.

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State Agency Collaboration cont'd:

- The OCF Team attended OhioDCY's open house on 12/19/2023. OCF Team members were able to visit the new building at 246 N. High Street, locate offices, and network with OhioDCY staff. The OCF Team will begin going into the office on Tuesday, 1/16/2024. OCF Team members are required to be in-office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, except weeks where in-office coverage requires Tuesday to be replaced with Friday or when attending field meetings.
- Kim and Joshua met with the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) Great Lakes Regional Prevention Coordinator. One of OCTF funded programs, Family Pride, is interested in offering in the Great Lakes Region the evidence-based fatherhood curriculum, 24/7 Dad[®], from the National Fatherhood Initiative[®] (NFI).
- Ashiko read, reviewed, and scored multiple applications for the Community and Faith-Based Infant and Maternal Health Support Services Funding Opportunity, where the goal was to expand access for community and faith-based organizations to implement community-level projects to improve infant and maternal health outcomes.
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- OCF Program Administrator Ashiko Hudson attended the FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) Steering Committee meeting.
- OCF Executive Director met with Medicaid Managed Health Plan, AmeriHealth representative Laurie Greco to discuss how AmeriHealth can more intentionally assist OCF and its grantees by providing information and resources to fathers and families served.
- OCF Executive Director participated in the CSIPT (Cross-Sector Implementation Planning Team) for the Family Support through Primary Prevention (FSPP) Grant. This grant was awarded to Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF). This cross-sector team meets virtually and in-person to discuss and implement strategies to prevent families from entering the Children Services/Foster Care system.

State Agency Collaboration cont'd:

- OCF Executive Director and Administrative Professional attended the Veteran Fatherhood Resource Fair at the Hamilton County Veteran's Hospital. OCF staff shared information regarding the Commission on Fatherhood, the importance of father involvement in a child's life, and various resources in Butler, Hamilton, and Warren counties.
- OCF Executive Director attended the Hamilton County Esteemed Seven Fatherhood Celebration facilitated by the Hamilton County Fatherhood Coalition. Seven fathers were celebrated and provided comments to the audience regarding their journeys as dads. Family members were in attendance, and the OCF Executive Director was provided time to welcome the families and make comments.
- OCF staff meet monthly with the Bringing Fathers Forward, Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD)workgroup. The workgroup discusses how fathers with children who have a disability can be better engaged and empowered in supporting their children's success.
- OCF Executive Director participates in meetings with the National Fatherhood Round Table. A more recent meeting included Mr. Seth Chamberlain, who leads the TANF program at Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, Health & Human Services. The discussion focused on the Healthy Marriage Responsible Fatherhood grants and the idea of providing the funds to the states for distribution.
- OCF staff met with staff from Ohio Children's Trust Fund and Ohio Family and Children First to discuss how each agency will work together as part of the new ODCY (Ohio Department of Children and Youth), Division of Outreach and Engagement. These three programs were the first to move from ODJFS (Ohio Department of Job and Family Services) to ODCY. The leadership in these three programs will continue to meet.
- OCF Executive Director and Program Administrator continue to meet with ODH staff and stakeholders as part of the Infant Mortality Task Force. OCF leadership facilitates the Social and Community Context Domain of the Eliminating Racial Disparities in Infant Mortality. This domain is part of the recommendations report provided to Governor DeWine as strategies to address infant mortality in various counties of interest.
- OCF staff continue to meet with staff from Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families (OPNFF) and OCF commissioners (State Summit Committee) to discuss the statutorily required State Fatherhood Summit scheduled for Sept. 24 and 25.

State Agency Collaboration cont'd:

- OCF Executive Director attended The Ohio State University's State Advisory Council (SAC). The advisory council meets to discuss how schools can better involve and empower parents to participate in their children's education and other school activities.
- OCF Executive Director introduced staff from OWD (Ohio Workforce Development), CCMEP (Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program) to staff at OCTF (Ohio Children's Trust Fund) as a program to add to the CSIPT (Cross-Sector Implementation Planning Team) as part of the Family Support through Primary Prevention (FSPP).
- OCF Executive Director and Manager of Operations met with the Ohio Fatherhood Survey (OFS) team. OFS is a survey of Ohio's fathers with recently born children. This is Ohio-specific data with a goal to address current and emerging public health issues unique to fathers and their families. OFS is a component of the larger Ohio Pregnancy Assessment Survey (OPAS), which surveys Ohio's mothers after the birth of their children. This is a co-sponsored project between the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM). OCF is a member of the Advisory Committee.
- OCF Executive Director attended the Expungement Policy meeting hosted by the Office of Family and Children Services. The expungement policy workgroup will focus on dispositions of child abuse and neglect in Ohio's SACWIS Alleged Perpetrator Registry. The workgroup is being convened in accordance with the 2024-2025 Operating Budget, Amended Substitute House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly (HB 33), which was signed by Governor Mike DeWine on July 4, 2023.
- OCF Executive Director met with Dr. Jennifer Bellamy from the University of Denver regarding the Fatherhood Home Visiting curriculum "Dads Matter". OCF would like Dr. Bellamy to provide a virtual training on the curriculum as well as a session during the statutorily required State Fatherhood Summit.
- OCF Executive Director and Manager of Operations met with a team from Mathematica to discuss the upcoming grant (Next Gen) scheduled to be released from OCSS (Office of Child Support Services). OCF Executive Director referred the team to the State Office of Child Support leadership.
- OCF Executive Director and Manager of Operations met with a representative from Portage County Head Start. The representative was referred to the Commission by a colleague in the Division of Outreach and Engagement at the Department of Children and Youth. OCF connected the Head Start representative to Passages, who serves fathers and families in Portage County under the Federal Healthy Marriage Responsible Fatherhood grant.



State Agency Collaboration cont'd:

- OCF Executive Director, Manager of Operation, and Program Administrator met to review the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Spotlight document which will spotlight the work of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood. The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse is funded by Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance.
- OCF Executive Director met with a team from HRSA, City Match, ODCY, and ODH to discuss a grants 101 event presented by HRSA scheduled for March 13, 2024, in Cleveland at Case Western. OCF Executive Director will join ODH/ODCY staff on a panel.
- OCF staff met with the Commission Executive Committee to discuss the agenda for the Feb. 8, 2024, commission meeting.
- OCF Executive Director met with G. Bomani Gray Project Director with Michigan Action Policy for Fatherhood Initiative (MAP-FI). Michigan received a mini grant from the Fatherhood Research and Practice Network (FRPN) to develop a network of Fatherhood programs, practitioners, and others supporting fathers to address the critical need for father involvement by enhancing capacity to deliver comprehensive services to fathers. FRPN used the Ohio County Fatherhood Mobilization Initiative to model the funding.
- OCF Executive Director met with the new Children's Hunger Alliance CEO, Ms. Michelle Brown. The OCF chairperson, Scott Neely, facilitated the meeting. Mr. Neely is also the Legislative Liaison with Children's Hunger Alliance.
- OCF Executive Director and Manager of Operations met with the Rhode Island Director, Prevent Child Abuse.

General Fatherhood Outreach, Meetings, and Conference Calls:

- Kim and Joshua will meet it the Director of Training or Ohio CASA/GAL. We are invited to speak at the annual Ohio Celebrate Kids conference on September 27, 2024.
- OCF Executive Director and Manager of Operations met with Theresa Ward from the Pregnancy Resource Center in Athens County. Ms. Ward is interested in Athens County participating in the Ohio County Fatherhood Mobilization Initiative.
- OCF Executive Director met with the Chair of the New African Immigrant Commission (NAIC) regarding a presentation at the Feb. 8, 2024, Commission meeting.
- OCF Executive Director met with Ms. Eira Yates with Milestones Autism Resources. Ms. Yates updated the OCF Executive Director with the various services provided by her organization.

Program	# Of program participants	Overview	Income Eligibility	Work Requirement	As of 08/31/2023
Commission on Fatherhood	# Of fathers served The total number of times a TANF-eligible father was served so far in SFY 2024 is 8,796; the total number of fathers served irrespective of his TANF eligibility is 10,696.	OCF funds five multi-county grantees and four single-county grantees.	N/A	The three overarching components to providing services: Parenting Skills, Co-Parenting Skills, Economic Stability, to include job readiness, obtaining a job and job retention.	Data is pulled from ETO (Efforts to Outcomes) The data is reflected thru 01-31-2024. The next update of the data will be available the first week of March 2024, which will reflect data thru 02-29-2024.