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Community Organizations Awarded Grants for Fatherhood Programming

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Three organizations across Ohio have been awarded two-year grants to help fathers in their areas to become better parents, partners, and providers, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF) announced today.

As part of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, OCF strengthens vulnerable Ohio families by funding programs that serve low-income fathers. It does this by giving them tools to help them find and keep jobs, improve the economic stability of their families, learn how to be responsible parents, and have better relationships with their children.

Many of the fathers the commission helps grew up in father-absent homes, without the benefit of positive male role models showing through their daily actions what it means to be a good father. The commission seeks to break this cycle by helping to train a new generation of fathers in how to be engaged parents.

The following organizations will receive \$150,000 each over the next two state fiscal years to offer individualized services to remove barriers to father engagement, lead fatherhood classes using an evidenced-based curriculum, help fathers prepare for, find and keep a job, and record all data in an online case management system so OCF can access the results in real time:

- Starts Within Organization, *Richland County*
- The Mountain of the Lord dba Fame Fathers, *Mahoning County*
- Williams Challenge/Man2Man, *Trumbull County*

OCF is a national leader in promoting responsible fatherhood programs. Commissioners include representatives from the governor's office, directors of state agencies, bi-partisan members of the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate, a representative from the Ohio Supreme Court, and citizens chosen by the governor because of their extensive experience in issues related to fatherhood. To learn more about the work of OCF, visit www.fatherhood.ohio.gov.