

Anchorage, Alaska

Sept. 24-28



Department for Children
and Families

Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas



Fatherhood Initiative Grant—Kansas Child Support Services (CSS)

- Goal: Promote healthy relationship(s), responsible parenting/fatherhood and self-reliance through gainful employment that lends towards long-term economic independence.



Fatherhood Initiative Grant

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funded—\$1.4 million, per grant year (July 2016-June 2017, two additional one-year renewals available)
- Awarded to five grantees—covering 17 counties across Kansas
- Services provided to TANF and non-TANF participants



Eligibility to Participate

- TANF recipients
- Non-TANF eligible recipients
- The desire to reconnect and provide for their child



Grantee Program Requirements

- Increase father's skills
- Help overcome obstacles and become engaged, responsible fathers
- Develop partnerships within service areas to fulfill both the parenting and financial needs
- Provide career assessment tools
- Career counseling services—job coaching, job readiness and skills development



Grantee Program Requirements

- Mentoring program
- Increase number of participants in weekly peer support meeting
- Improve communication between father and child/children, as appropriate
- Provide opportunity for fathers to address self-esteem and healthy relationships



Grant Services Provided

- Grantees must provide services in at least two of three suggested areas:
 - Career development
 - Parenting
 - Healthy relationships



Program Outcomes

- Fathers have understanding of how to navigate systems to meet financial and parenting needs.
- Families learn the importance of healthy relationships.
- Individuals learn conflict-resolution skills and anger management.
- Fathers are knowledgeable of parenting skills, appropriate discipline and blended families.
- Fathers receive information on financial literacy, education for job and career advancement.



Services That Stand Out

- Relationship building with companies and employers
- Curriculum “How to Talk With Mom and Child”
- Partnership with local YMCA—family violence prevention training
- Life-transformation coaches provide support of life plan
- Collaboration with courts—if three payments made, will remove from court docket as long as current on child support
- Partnerships with community shelters and correctional facilities



Incentives for State-owed Arrears

- Three types of incentive programs offered to NCPs who have State-owed arrears:
 - Education and training certification programs
 - Child support savings initiative—529 savings account
 - Classes and other miscellaneous programs



Education and Certification Programs

- Completion of GED or high school diploma
- Technical/vocational training program
- College degree (associates or bachelor's)
- Culinary certificate
- Certified Nurse's Aide (CNA)
- Certificate of Occupational Competency in Computer Systems and Informational Technology
- Federal Bureau of Prisons certification programs
- Miscellaneous other certification programs



Child Support Savings Initiative/529 Savings Account

- Partnership between Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) with State Treasurer's Office—June 2013
- Beneficiary is child, and only at age 25 can funds be withdrawn, if no higher education costs
- Anyone can deposit into account
- Match of \$2 adjusted off arrears for every \$1 deposited into account
- NCP receives match/deposit if current child support paid and at least \$1 paid towards arrears in same month of deposit or arrears only, and \$1 paid towards arrears
- No parental rights terminated



Classes

- Fatherhood
- Financial planning/counseling
- Parenting
- Work for Success
- Other community programs



Exploring

- Work with courts statewide
- Driver's license restriction
- Partnership with Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) for modifications to orders, etc.
- Services to custodial parent and mothers

