



A five-year project funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, the Fatherhood Research and Practice Network (FRPN) seeks to:

- 1 Promote rigorous evaluation of fatherhood programs that serve low-income fathers. The FRPN will fund the evaluation of programs that aim to increase paternal engagement and parenting skills; improve fathers' ability to provide economic support; and increase parenting time, father-child contact, positive co-parenting and healthy relationships.

The first group of FRPN grantees was announced in December 2014. The four funded projects include randomized controlled trials (RCTs); are led by researcher/practitioner teams; and involve the collection of data from program participants and/or staff at pre- and post-program time points to assess changes in father-child relationships and co-parenting. These projects include:

- Dr. Bright Sarfo and Mr. Joseph Jones (Center for Urban Families, Baltimore). An RCT of the Developing All Dads for Manhood and Parenting (DAD MAP) fatherhood curriculum.
- Dr. Paul Lanier (University of North Carolina) and Ms. Patricia Beier (Wayne Action Group for Economic Solvency, WAGES, Goldsboro, NC). An RCT of Circle of Parents, a peer support network.
- Dr. Jennifer Bellamy (University of Denver, School of Social Work) with Metropolitan Family Services, Chicago. An enhancement to a larger RCT of Dads Matter, a fatherhood intervention in home visiting settings.
- Dr. Young Il-Kim (Baylor University, Institute for Studies of Religion) and Dr. Brenda Oyer (The Ridge Project, Inc., McClure, OH). An RCT of TYRO Dads, a fatherhood program operated at 11 sites in Ohio.

The FRPN will issue its second request for proposals in January 2016.

- 2 Expand the number of researchers and practitioners collaborating to evaluate fatherhood programs.
- 3 Disseminate information, including new evaluation findings, that leads to effective fatherhood practice and evaluation research.

The FRPN will also:

- **Engage** leading researchers and practitioners to identify research gaps in the fatherhood field.
- **Mentor and train** researchers and practitioners to facilitate rigorous evaluation of fatherhood programs.
- **Maintain** a comprehensive website - [www.frpn.org](http://www.frpn.org) - to link researchers and practitioners as well as inform audiences of program evaluations and other resources.
- **Translate and disseminate** FRPN and other evaluation research findings to practitioners, researchers, policymakers and funders.
- **Expand** the number of researchers conducting evaluations of fatherhood programs and increase awareness and use of evidence-based research practices among practitioners.
- **Identify** and expand the use of validated outcome measures across fatherhood programs, when appropriate.

The FRPN is led by Jay Fagan, PhD, professor of social work at Temple University, and Jessica Pearson, PhD, director of the Center for Policy Research in Denver, Colorado. The project also includes a steering committee and four workgroups consisting of 40 leading national fatherhood researchers and practitioners.

To learn more about the FRPN, please visit [www.frpn.org](http://www.frpn.org) or contact Dr. Fagan at [jfagan@temple.edu](mailto:jfagan@temple.edu).

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