

# CFRP SNAPSHOT

## Fatherhood Initiatives in Texas

Within the state of Texas, more than two dozen programs exist to promote father involvement and provide fathers with the tools for healthy, effective parenting. The vast majority of these initiatives serve just one city or county, with only a handful operating in multiple counties or statewide. The programs are generally operated by non-profits and other local organizations with funding from the state, federal grants, or private foundations. Programs vary in the services they offer, the way in which they bring services to fathers, the primary goals and emphasis of the program, and the characteristics of the fathers served.

The table below is a preliminary inventory of initiatives in Texas that aim to increase and improve fathers' involvement with their children. The table identifies the organization – the nonprofit or government entity – that operates the program, and the county or city in which the services are available. Each program's primary funding source is specified, and the table is color-coded to indicate programs that are funded by the same source. The services offered are described in the *Program Features* column. *Program Focus* identifies the primary objective(s) of the program, based on the following categories: parenting skills, co-parenting, healthy relationships, financial stability, employment, child abuse prevention, anger/stress management, incarceration/re-entry support, child support, paternity establishment, and training and support. Finally, if there are any eligibility requirements to participate in the program, they are defined in the last column.

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CFRP SNAPSHOT

February 2016

Fatherhood Initiatives' Primary Funding Source Color Key
Federally Funded
State Funded
Mixed Funding (Non-profit/Private/Government)

Program Name	Organization	Location	Funding Source	Program Features	Program Focus	Eligibility
Alliance for North Texas Healthy and Effective Marriages, dba Anthem Strong Families	Alliance for North Texas Healthy and Effective Marriages (ANTHEM)	Dallas	New Pathways for Fathers and Families Grant - ACF (2015)	Aimed at to improving the educational environment to increase father involvement. Provide training, technical assistance, and event facilitation for schools and community organizations, including Head Start. Tools include the Strong Start and Blue Prints for Dad curricula for service providers.	Father Engagement Training and Support, Curriculum Development	Schools, organizations, or programs with an interest in improving father engagement
Motivation, Education, and Training, Inc.	Motivation, Education, and Training, Inc.	New Caney	New Pathways for Fathers and Families Grant – ACF (2015)	Provides employment, vocational training, emergency support, housing services *New grantee, information on fatherhood program not available online	Employment/ Financial Stability, Job Readiness	Migrant and seasonal farmworkers, low-income families
Services to Fathers, Parent-Child Education Program	AVANCE – San Antonio	Delivered in Houston and Rio Grande Valley	New Pathways for Fathers and Families Grant – ACF (2015)  Foundation grants	Provides educational courses for fathers, case management, and support services such as meals and transportation; uses the Five Protective Factors framework to promote father involvement and AVANCE Inc. Services to Fathers Curriculum; parents learn about anger and stress management, domestic violence prevention, and positive expression of emotions	Parenting Skills, Violence Prevention/ Anger Management	Must have a child 0-3 years old and have income within the federal poverty guidelines
Horizon Eagle	Horizon Outreach	Houston, Spring	New Pathways for Fathers and Families Grant – ACF (2011, 2015)	Provides curriculum-based instruction on effective parenting and relationship skills, resources for economic stability; emphasis on veterans suffering from PTSD	Parenting, Healthy Relationships, Employment/ Financial Stability	All fathers, veteran fathers with history of PTSD

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CFRP SNAPSHOT

February 2016

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Fathers and Children Together (FACT)	Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County	Fort Worth, Tarrant County	Responsible Fatherhood Grant – ACF (2011)	Provides personal Mentor-Navigator to help with child support/visitation, employment, parenting skills, strengthening relationships, education, finances, and anger management	Employment/ Financial Stability	Low-income mothers and fathers
The Fatherhood Works Program	Goodwill Industries of Central Texas	Austin	Responsible Fatherhood Grant - ACF (2011)	Offers a comprehensive approach to promoting responsible fatherhood	Unknown	Unknown
Responsible Fatherhood	Southwest Key Programs, Inc.	San Antonio	Responsible Fatherhood Grant – ACF (2011)	Engages fathers in relationship-building/long-term bonding with their children through weekly classes and quarterly workshops; offer case management, aftercare, and economic stability services; uses Raising Children with Pride, Active Relationships, and Healing the Wounded Spirit curricula	Parenting Skills, Healthy Relationships, Financial Stability	Anyone who identifies as being in a fatherhood role
Fathers Empowerment Project	LifeWorks Youth & Family Alliance	Travis County	Responsible Fatherhood Grant – ACF (2011)	Offers counseling, parenting education, case management, and employment assistance to help fathers learn how to care for a new child, create a productive relationship with child's mother, and continue education/enter the workforce	Employment/ Financial Stability, Co-parenting	Anyone who identifies as being in a fatherhood role, lives in Travis County, has income within the federal poverty guidelines
Dads Make a Difference; Building Strong and Healthy Families Initiative	Healthy Families of San Angelo	San Angelo	Responsible Fatherhood Grant, Healthy Marriage Grant – ACF (2011)	Encourages fathers to emotionally connect with and financially support their children. To promote relationships between fathers and their children, the program conducts home visits, father and parent group meetings, father and child play activities, family outings, and other recreational activities	Parenting Skills, Healthy Relationships, Employment/ Financial Stability	

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CFRP SNAPSHOT

February 2016

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service	Texas A&M	College Station	Health Marriage and Relationship Education Grant – ACF (2015)	Provides educational programs, activities, and resources for agricultural-based programs and organizations across Texas	Training and Support	Schools, organizations, or programs offering agricultural-based services
Strengthening Relationships/ Strengthening Families (SR/SF)	Texas State University	San Marcos	Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Grant – ACF (2011, 2015)	Provides high school youth training on value of marriage, relationship skills and budgeting; and job readiness and financial literacy/management skills; incorporates case management, referrals, and home visits as needed	Healthy Relationships, Employment/ Financial Stability, Job Readiness	High school students
Empowering Families Project (EPF)	The Parenting Center	Fort Worth, Tarrant County	Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Grant – ACF (2011, 2015)	Provides community education, marriage programs and counseling services focused on parenting skills, financial management, conflict resolution, and job, career advancement, and marriage skills training	Parenting skills, Healthy Relationships, Job Readiness, Employment/ Financial Stability	Low-income parents and families, those on or at-risk of going on TANF, and refugees
Healthy Marriage Community Empowerment Program	AVANCE – Houston, Inc.	Houston	Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education – ACF (2011, 2015)  United Way	Provides classes on parenting skills, improving relationships between couples, and strengthening families; job and career advancement skills training; services include advocacy and referrals; Program uses the following curricula: Parejas Unidas, Active Relationships, Father Factor and AVANCE, Inc.'s Parent Education Curriculum.	Parenting Skills, Healthy Relationships / Co-Parenting	Families and married couples
Alliance for North Texas Healthy and Effective Marriages, dba Anthem Strong Families	Alliance for North Texas Healthy and Effective Marriages (ANTHEM)	Dallas	Healthy Marriage Grant – ACF (2011)	Provide training on marriage education, marriage skills, and relationship skills programs; may include parenting skills, financial management, conflict resolution and job and career advancement	Healthy Relationships, Parenting Skills, Employment/ Financial Stability, Job Readiness	Married couples, high school students

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CFRP SNAPSHOT

February 2016

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Houston Marriage Project	Family Service Center at Houston and Harris County	Houston, Harris County	Healthy Marriage Grant – ACF (2011)	Provides marriage campaigns; marriage and relationship skills programs; job and career advancement; mentoring programs. Uses the following curricula: Active Marriage and Best Practices, Active Choices, Hold Me Tight and Prepare/Enrich.	Healthy Relationships, Employment/Financial Stability, Job Readiness	Low-income couples
Healthy Opportunities for Marriage Enrichment	El Paso Center for Children, Inc.	El Paso	Healthy Marriage Grant – ACF (2011)	Provides families with marriage education and marriage/relationship skills that may include parenting skills, financial management, conflict resolution, and job and career advancement, uses the PREP: Within Our Reach curriculum	Parenting Skills, Employment/Financial Stability, Job Readiness	Low-income Hispanic married couples with children
Steps to Success	Healthy Families San Angelo	San Angelo	Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) Grant – ACF (2012)	Integrated dads program into full family approach. Intensive, long-term home visiting that engages moms and dads from prenatal stage to child's 2nd birthday. Male and female home visitors focus on bonding and attachment, healthy birth spacing through contraceptive use, family self-sufficiency through education and employment, and healthy relationship skills. Uses Healthy Babies...Healthy Families, Maps for Dads, and Steps to Success curricula.	Parenting Skills, Healthy Relationships, Employment/Financial Stability	Mothers must be under 21 years old at intake
Urban Fathers Asset Building (UFAB) project	Attorney General of Texas (OAG), Child Support Division (CSD) – Family Initiatives	Houston	Building Assets for Fathers and Families (BAFF) Grant – ACF-OCSE (2011)	Encourages financial literacy and asset building to help fathers become more economically self-sufficient. Provides financial stability services, information about child support, and matched savings accounts	Child Support, Financial Stability	
Dad's Club	North Texas Fatherhood Initiative (subsidiary of Texas Healthy Marriage and Relationship Initiative)	Dallas	Compassion Capital Fund Grant – ACF (2009)	Provides support group for fathers to connect and share information; dads promote positive involvement and interaction by participating in monthly "Lunch Dads" activity	Parenting Skills	All fathers

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CFRP SNAPSHOT

February 2016

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Success for Life	Family Care Connection	Dallas County	Grant to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Program – U.S. Department of Justice (2013)	Aimed at teen/young adult parents; provides case management, parent education, mentoring, and marriage/relationship skills training through group meetings, home visits, and high school class presentations; emphasizes role of fathers	Parenting Skills – Teen Focused, Healthy Relationships	Teen/young adult parents
Fatherhood EFFECT I	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) (BCFS Health and Human Services; Child Crisis Center of El Paso)	Cameron and Taylor County; El Paso	DFPS-PEI and CBCAP federal funds	Offers parenting education course, uses the 24/7 Dad curriculum, teaches characteristics of a good father; topics include conflict resolution, communication, child behavior problems, handling complicated emotions, aggression, alcohol, and violence; participants receive childcare, transportation, and food/diapers/clothing	Parenting/ Co-parenting Skills, Violence Prevention/ Anger Management	Have children under age 17, no open or substantiated DFPS case, live in Cameron or Taylor County; Must have no substantiated CPS case, have at least one risk factor from a designated list
Fatherhood EFFECT II	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) (NewDay Services)	Tarrant and Denton Counties	DFPS-PEI and CBCAP federal funds	Offers cohort-based parenting and healthy relationships course using Nurturing Fathers curriculum (13 weeks, 2.5 hour classes/week). Ancillary services include a mentor navigator component to connect with other systems of support.	Parenting Skills, Healthy Relationships	Must have no substantiated CPS case, have at least one risk factor from a designated list
Project Help through Intervention and Prevention (HIP)	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)	Multiple program sites statewide	DFPS-PEI	Provides voluntary services to families to increase protective factors and prevent child abuse; extensive family assessment, home visiting programs that include parent education and basic needs support	Child Abuse Prevention, Parenting Skills	Parents whose parental rights were previously terminated/who have had a child die due to child abuse and neglect, who currently have newborn

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CFRP SNAPSHOT

February 2016

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Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Early Support (Project HOPES)	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) (contractors operate the program in 8 counties)	Cameron, Ector, El Paso, Gregg, Hidalgo, Potter, Travis, and Webb Counties	DFPS-PEI	Offers group sessions, case management, counseling, parent education, and home visitation to promote supportive family environments, healthy relationships, and positive communication. Contracts with community-based organizations to provide child abuse and neglect prevention services. Each site uses curriculum that best fits their community; 24/7 Dad, Triple P, Breaking the Cycle, Fathering After Violence, and Nurturing Fathers are all being used.	Violence Prevention, Healthy Relationships, Parenting Skills	Must have child age 0-5, no open/substantiated CPS case, reside in the county where the contract was awarded, and have two risk factors from a designated list
Texas Families: Together and Safe (TFTS)	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) (BCFS non-profit network)	Bexar, Cameron, Hidalgo, Kerr, and Nueces Counties	DFPS-PEI	Parenting education program that teaches families how to resolve conflict/improve communication, improve children's behavioral problems, deal with strong emotions, aggression, alcohol, and violence, and validate parents' strengths	Parenting/ Co-Parenting Skills, Violence Prevention/ Anger Management	Families with children 3-17yrs, no open CPS case, no prior case of abuse or neglect, in counties served
Families First	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) (Catholic Charities Fort Worth)	Fort Worth/ Tarrant County	DFPS-PEI and TFTS grant	Provides assessment, parenting education, and support services using Triple P curriculum	Parenting Skills	Parents with children 18 months-12 years, no substantiated open or past CPS case, must live in Tarrant County, and must enroll in classes voluntarily

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CFRP SNAPSHOT

February 2016

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CPS Fatherhood Initiative	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), Child Protective Services (CPS)	Texas	DFPS-CPS	CPS Fatherhood Initiative aims to more effectively engage fathers in the child welfare system and increase permanency for children in foster care. Works with other agencies and stakeholders, conducts trainings and presentations on father engagement, participates in fatherhood related workgroups.	Parenting Skills, Violence Prevention, Father Engagement	
Texas Home Visiting	Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)	Bexar, Collin, Dallas, Ector, Gregg, Harris, Hays, Hidalgo/Willacy/Cameron, Montgomery, Nueces, Potter, Smith/Cherokee, Starr, Tarrant, and Wichita Counties	HHSC and MIECHV federal funds	Offers three different home visiting programs (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers) to parents of children five and under in 15 counties throughout Texas. The programs aim to help “good people be great parents,” as well as working in communities to strengthen support for all families.	Parenting Skills	Varies by home visiting program
Noncustodial Parent Choices	Texas Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Child Support Division (CSD) – Family Initiatives & Texas Workforce Commission	Multiple program sites statewide	OAG-CSD	Provides enhanced child support case compliance monitoring and employment services for un/underemployed, NCPs who owe child support; services include personal career counselor, job leads, job search guidance, career planning, GED or ESL classes, and work clothing and transportation assistance; typically lasts 6 months	Child Support, Employment/Financial Stability	Must be court ordered into the program



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CFRP SNAPSHOT

February 2016

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Parenting and Paternity Awareness (p.a.p.a.)	Texas Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Child Support Division (CSD) – Family Initiatives	Multiple program sites statewide	OAG-CSD	Public school curriculum (14 sessions) on rights, responsibilities, and realities of parenting; focuses on father involvement, paternity establishment, financial/emotional challenges of single parenting, healthy relationship skills	Parenting Skills – Teen Focused, Paternity Establishment, Violence Prevention	Public school students
Services for Incarcerated Parents and Parents Returning to the Community	Texas Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Child Support Division (CSD) – Family Initiatives	Multiple program sites statewide	OAG-CSD	Creates and delivers resources about paternity and child support to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated parents (handbook and DVD); encourages incarcerated parents to remain emotionally and financially engaged with children; parents can request review of their child support obligation	Child Support, Paternity Establishment	Incarcerated and formerly incarcerated parents
Paternity Establishment	Texas Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Child Support Division (CSD)	Texas	OAG-CSD and federal funds	Supports voluntary paternity establishment and early engagement of fathers to reduce the need for formal, adversarial child support services. Provides paternity establishment training and resources for Texas HHSC’s Home Visiting program, the Texas WIC program, and local community and faith-based parent education programs.	Paternity Establishment	Nonmarital births
Child Support	Texas Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Child Support Division (CSD)	Texas	OAG-CSD and federal funds	Provides services for parents who wish to obtain or provide support for their children, including: locating the absent parent, establishing paternity, establishing and enforcing child support orders, establishing and enforcing medical support orders, reviewing and adjusting child support payments, collecting and distributing child support payments. Services are required by federal law.	Child Support, Paternity Establishment	

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CFRP SNAPSHOT

February 2016

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Shared Parenting Programs	Texas Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Child Support Division (CSD) – Family Initiatives	Multiple providers statewide	OAG-CSD	Provide visitation services for noncustodial parents, shared parenting education, and information regarding child custody, conservatorship, and possession order issues. These programs include the multiple community-based organizations and county domestic relations offices.	Access and Visitation	
Access and Visitation Hotline and Website	Legal Aid of Northwest Texas	Texas	OAG-CSD	Telephone hotline to provide easy, statewide access to basic legal information, education, and resources for parents and other interested parties who do not have access to an attorney. Attorneys provide basic legal information and education about establishing paternity, the child support process and a parent’s legal authority to see his or her child; they do not offer legal advice	Child Support, Paternity Establishment	
WIC Peer Dad (PD) Program	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), The Office of Title V and Family Health (OTVFH)	Dallas, Cameron County, San Antonio, College Station, Tyler, and Hidalgo County.	DSHS-OTVFH	Teaches fathers and mothers about: Breastfeeding, Shaken Baby (e.g. Periods of Purple Crying), Baby Behavior training, Being a dad –caring for a mom. Makes referrals to social services for financial security (e.g. employment, utilities, etc.) Reaches out to fathers and grandfathers of women who don’t breastfeed.	Parenting Skills	
Live Like a Dad Media Campaign	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), The Office of Title V and Family Health (OTVFH)	Texas	DSHS-OTVFH	<a href="http://www.livelikeadad.com/">www.livelikeadad.com/</a> increases awareness on the importance of fatherhood involvement, and provides father-centered educational information and resources to help fathers navigate and support their partners through the stages of pregnancy, labor and delivery, and parenting including infant health and development. Includes email subscription service.	Parenting Skills, Healthy Relationships	

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CFRP SNAPSHOT

February 2016

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Someday Starts Now Public Awareness Campaign	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), The Office of Title V and Family Health (OTVFH)	Texas	DSHS-OTVFH	Public awareness campaign of DSHS's infant mortality reduction initiative, Healthy Texas Babies—provides accessible, reliable, and supportive information on leading a healthy lifestyle from preconception to parenting and beyond for men and women of childbearing age. Tools for men include a Life Planning Tool, a Birth Plan (to encourage involvement and partner support during pregnancy), a booklet for new fathers called Maps for New Dads, and references to national resources on fatherhood.	Parenting Skills, Health Relationships	
Family Place, My Father's House, Family Pathways	Buckner Children and Family Services, Family Transition Programs	Amarillo, Conroe, Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, Lufkin, Midland	Texas Fund Grant – Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation	Single parent focus; parents and children are offered safe place to live, counseling services, and lessons in parenting skills, money management, and conflict resolution; provide spiritual mentorship	Parenting Skills	Must be >18 years old, enrolled in educational/vocational program
Compadre Y Compadre	The Children's Shelter	San Antonio and Bexar County area	United Way, local foundations/donations	2 week "Daddy Boot Camp" – learn child development, infant safety precautions, hands-on childcare training; 15 week parenting class (Nurturing Fathers and Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors curricula) – non-violent discipline, appropriate boundaries, stress management, self-awareness, overcoming barriers; offer case management, assessments/screenings, aftercare mentoring, school readiness	Parenting Skills, Violence Prevention/Anger & Stress Management	Any male caregiver with a child under 18
iParent SA Parenting Support	The Children's Shelter	San Antonio/Bexar County	United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, DFPS, Metro Health 1115 Waiver	Provides short- and long-term services including in-home and group-based parent training, child school readiness, developmental assessments, family enrichment activities, case management, 24/7 crisis intervention, and emergency day/overnight respite	Parenting Skills	Parents/guardians with children under 18 in San Antonio or Bexar County

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CFRP SNAPSHOT

February 2016

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Parent Education	Family Service Association of San Antonio	San Antonio	United Way, corporate/foundation grants	Parenting classes to teach effective nurturing and disciplining; in-home parenting sessions; speakers bureau to spread word on child abuse prevention throughout the community	Parenting Skills	All parents
Parenting 101, Positive Parenting, Parenting Help, and Helping Children Cope with Divorce	DePelchin Children's Center	Multiple program sites statewide	United Way	Courses that cover child development, communication, positive discipline, stress management, causes of child misbehavior, and positive parenting strategies; divorce class offers guidance on navigating the process to minimize negative impact on children; offer 8 week, 6 week, and 2 day classes; use Parenting 101 and Triple P curricula	Parenting/Co-Parenting	All parents
Safe Harbour Supervised Visitation Center	Project Unity	Brazos Valley	OAG, City of Bryan Community Development Block Grant, Dansby Foundation, United Way of Brazos Valley	Center for children's supervised visits with noncustodial parent; provides parenting education, assists in developing shared parenting plans, and facilitates fathering support groups	Parenting/Co-Parenting	Families that have some type of supervised visitation requirement

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