

A Technical Assistance Webinar of the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse

April 22, 2008

2pm – 3:30pm (EDT)

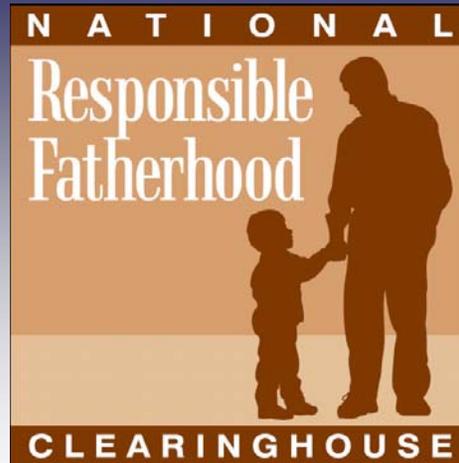
“Promising Practices: Working with Teen Fathers ”

Presenters:

Nigel Vann: NRFC Director of Technical Assistance

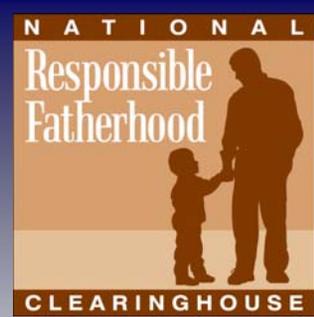
Michael Hayes: Director of Family Strengthening Initiatives,
Office of the Attorney General – Texas

Bobby Verdugo: Coordinator of Youth Services, Bienvenidos
Family Services/National Latino Fatherhood and
Family Institute



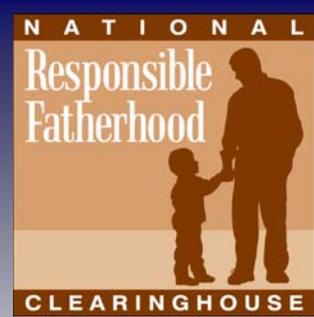
No School Like the “Old School”

**Lessons for a New Generation of
Teen Father Programs - from the
Texas Fragile Families Initiative**



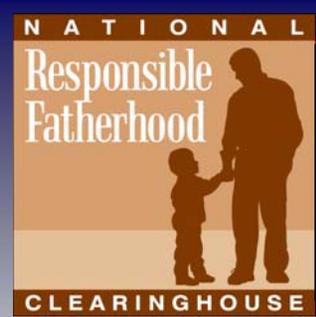
Texas Fragile Families Initiative

- 11 site, 4-year demonstration project serving fathers 16 – 24**
- Over 1,100 fathers served –**
 - 55% Hispanic/ Latino, 35% Black, 8% White**
- Services included**
 - Fatherhood education – peer support**
 - Workforce development / education**
 - Paternity establishment / Child support**
 - Team parenting and relationship skills**
 - Comprehensive case management**

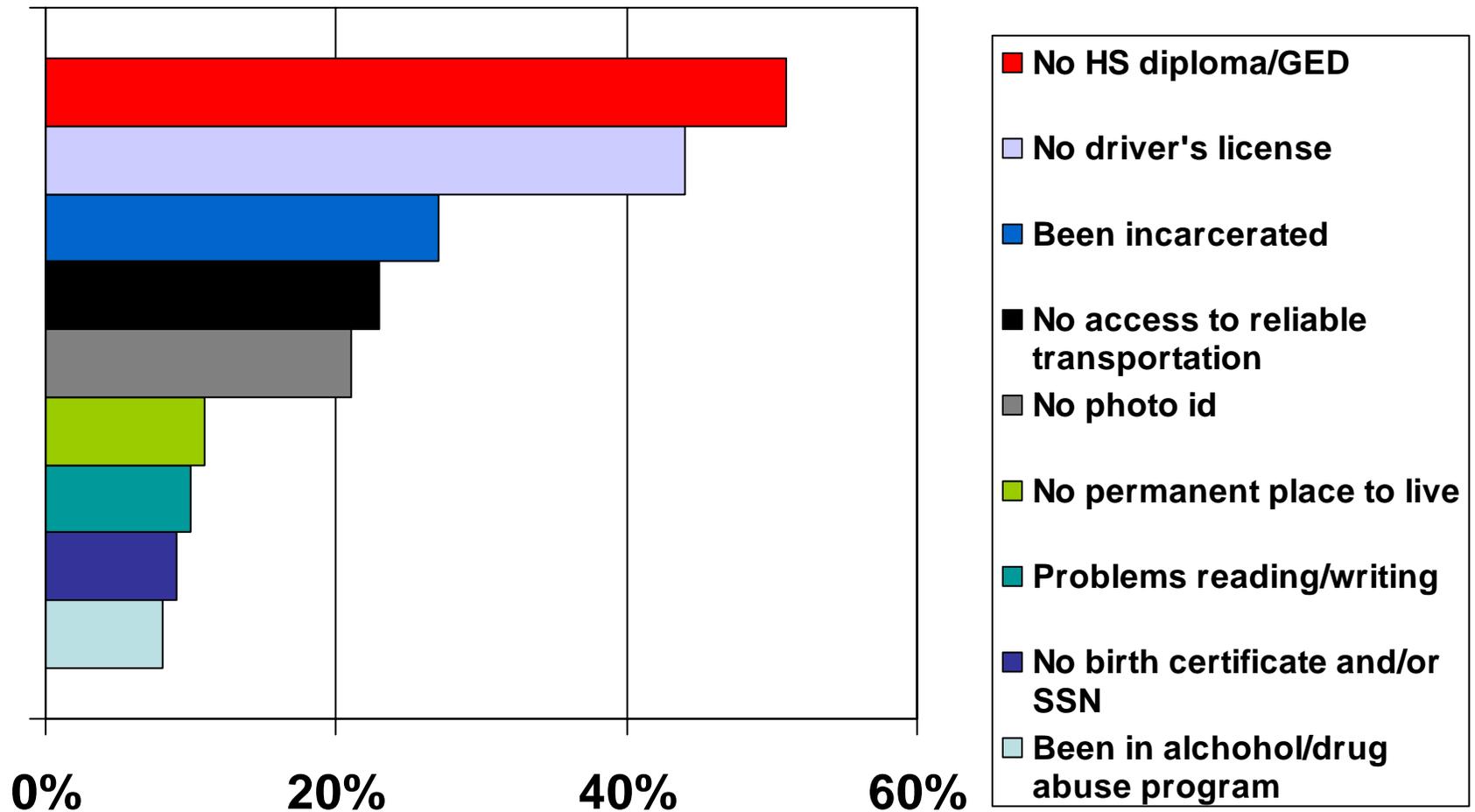


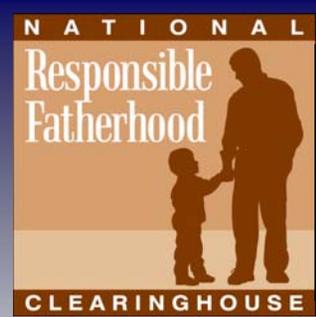
Fathers in TFF

- **Key personal characteristics**
 - **80% saw their child at least 1x a week**
 - **67% still romantically connected to child's mother**
 - **> 30% entered program while partner was pregnant**
 - **37% still in school**
 - of those out of school 51% no H.S. degree or GED
 - **50% unemployed when entering the program**

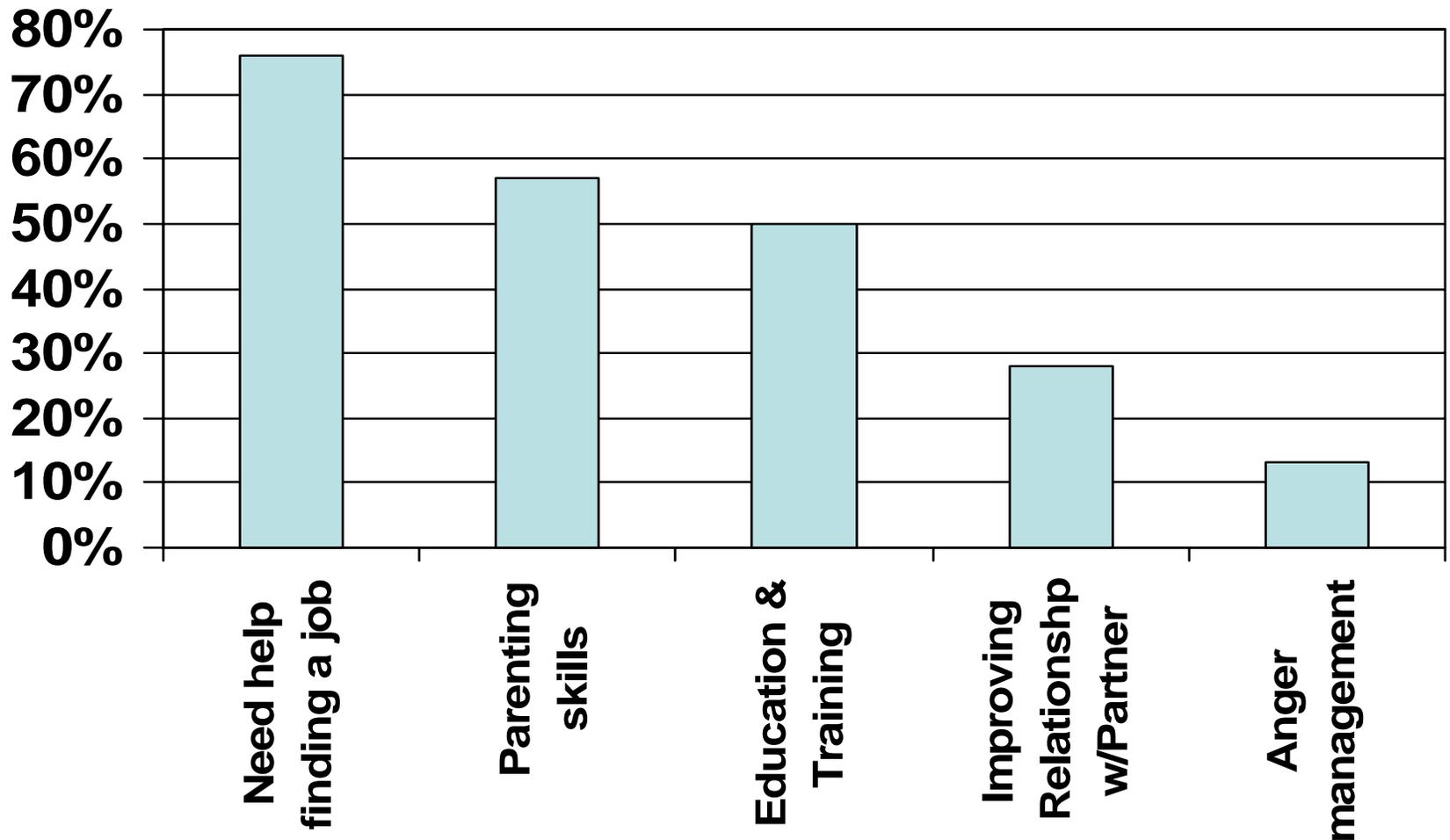


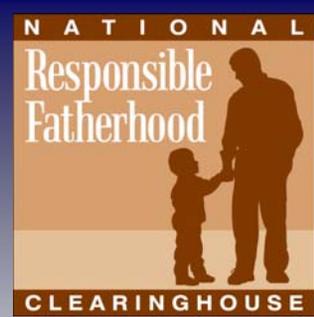
Personal Barriers





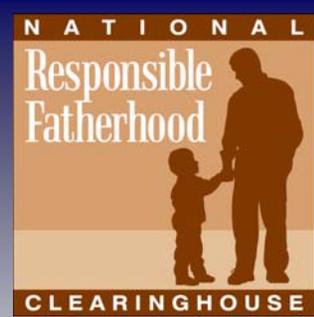
“Help Wanted”





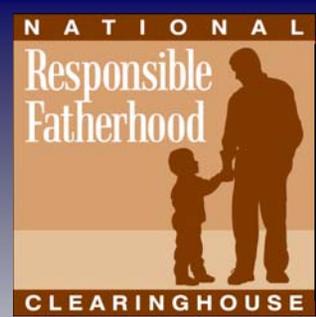
Legal Issues for Teen Fathers

- **Paternity establishment**
 - Voluntary process vs. Court process
 - Legal rights
 - Link to engagement
- **Child Support**
 - Informal support
 - Legal obligations
- **Custody and access**
 - Fatherhood denied?

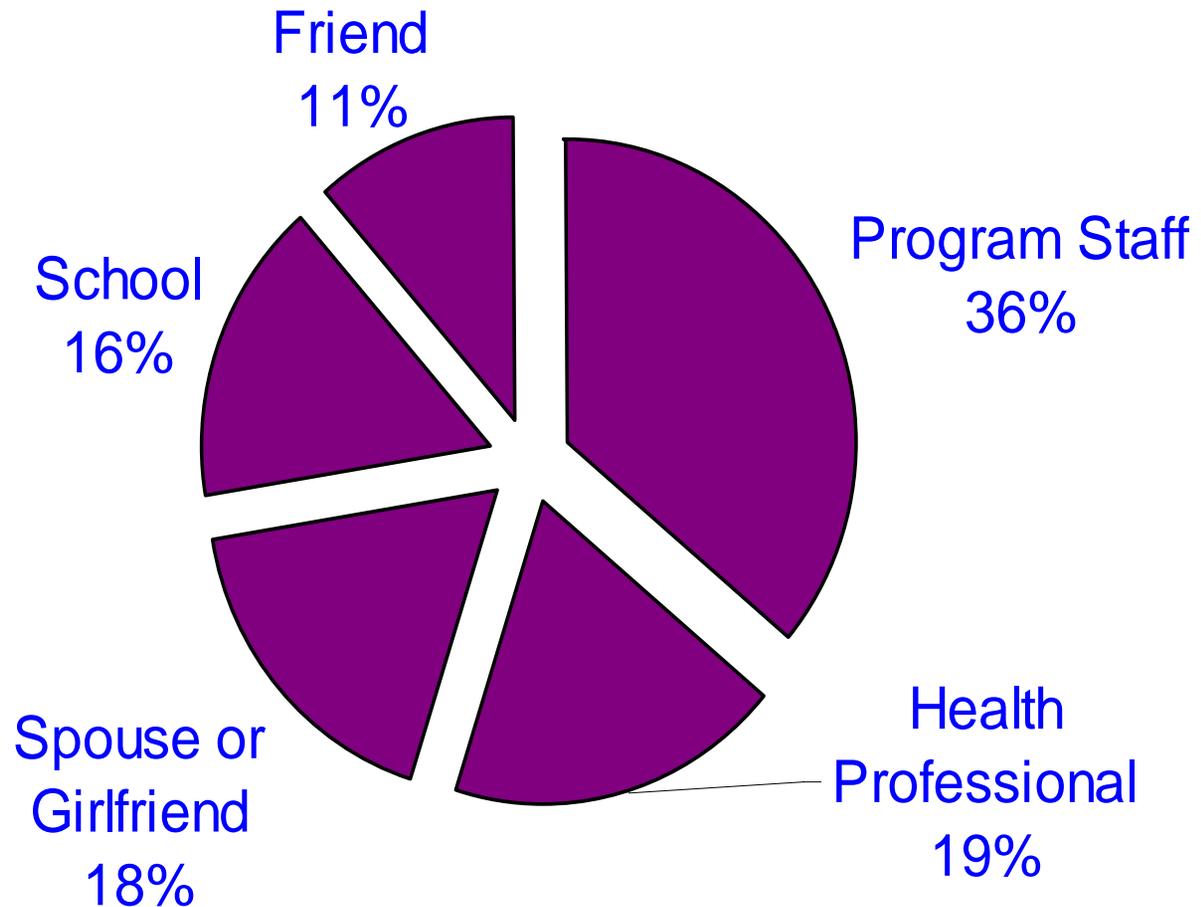


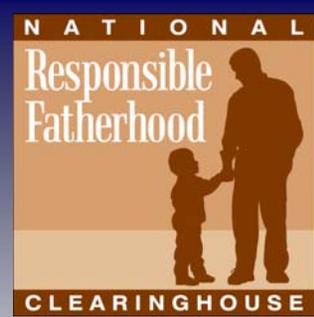
Successful Program Characteristics

- **School based and “team parenting” models**
- **Consistent staff presence**
- **Understanding of/and connections to public systems with impact on teen fathers**
- **Multiple recruitment approaches - flexibility and persistence**
- **Real collaboration with community agencies that provide the following services:**
 - **mental health, substance abuse, housing, transportation, child care, family violence, legal services, and basic needs**



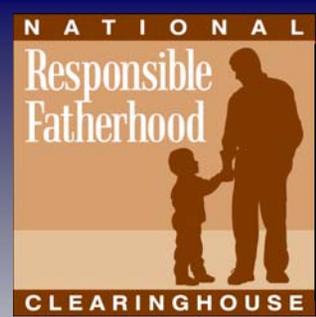
TFF Recruitment Sources





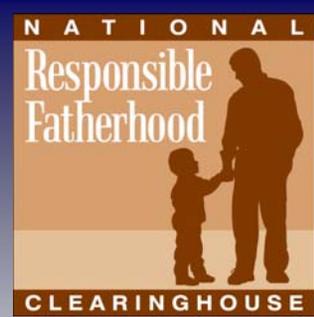
Onramps for Teen Fathers

- **Prenatal father education**
 - **Envisioning fatherhood – “birthing the baby in his mind”**
 - **Addressing his fears – ambivalence toward pregnancy**
 - **What to expect when she’s expecting**
 - **Addressing his competition for attention**
 - **Protective factors and risk factors**
 - **Prenatal connection most powerful predictor of post-natal involvement**



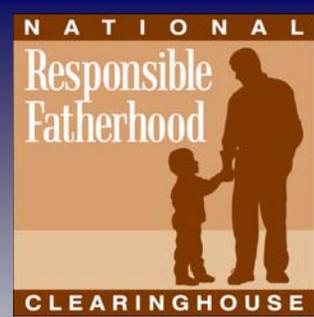
Onramps for Teen Fathers

- **Paternity establishment**
 - Overwhelming majority at the birth
 - Hospital staff has limited time/resources
 - Reinforces the “do right dad” instinct
 - Address lack of knowledge – misinformation
 - Predictive of ongoing involvement
 - Protects dad’s legal connection to child



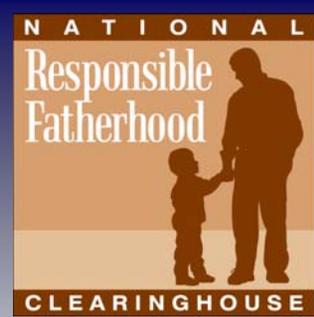
Onramps for Teen Fathers

- **Education - Employment**
 - 3 out of 4 TFF fathers wanted help with a job – 1/2 wanted help with education
 - Juggle immediate needs vs. longer term potentials (\$4 per hour between 9th grade and post-secondary education)
 - Skills-based training and apprenticeships
 - OJT
 - Fathers with criminal history 3 times less likely to be working than those without



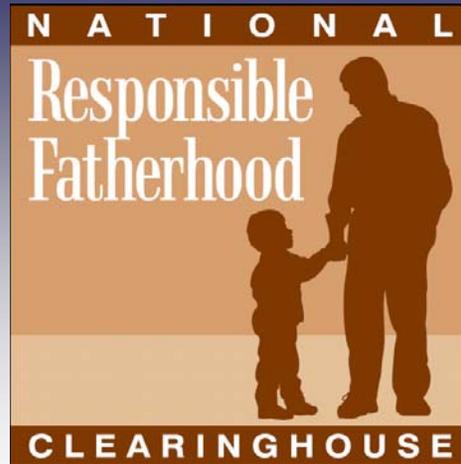
Onramps for Teen Fathers

- **Parenting support**
 - **Basic education on parenting with “father flavor”**
 - **Team parenting and relationship with mother and extended family**
 - **Acknowledge experience (or lack thereof) being fathered**
 - **Developmentally and culturally appropriate**
 - **Mix of group/peer and one on one approaches**



Thank you!!

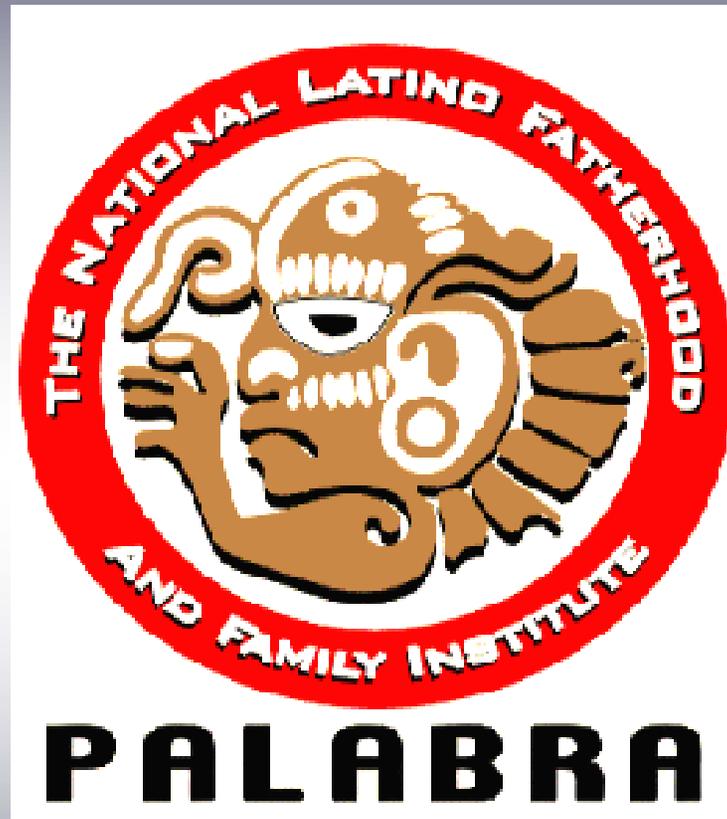
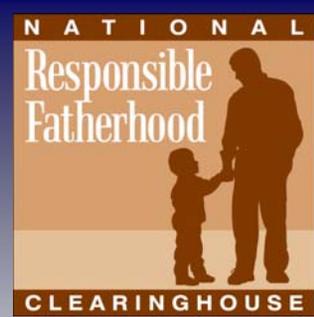
Michael Hayes
Family Strengthening Initiatives,
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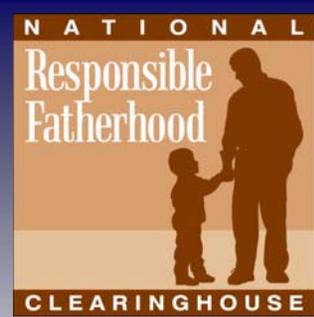
Working with Young Latino Fathers: The Con Los Padres Program

Bobby Verdugo, BSW

**Bienvenidos Family Services/ National
Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute**

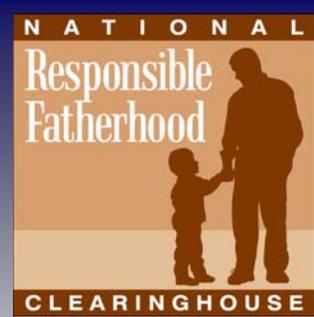


THE NATIONAL LATINO FATHERHOOD AND FAMILY INSTITUTE IS A PROJECT OF BIENVENIDOS CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC., IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL COMPADRES NETWORK AND BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT, INC.



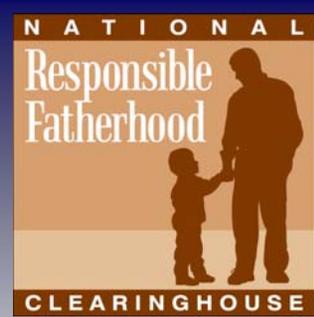
Roadmap

- History
 - Challenges
 - Strengths
 - Recruit, Engage & Connect
 - Ceremony and Tradition
 - Stories/Activities to Share
 - Four Elements of PALABRA
- Challenges for Youth
 - New Challenges and Issues
 - Young Dads' Retreat
 - Teen Parents Should be Recognized and Acknowledged
 - Young Dads and their Children



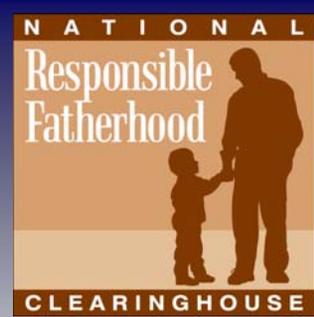
History

- **Needs of the community**
 - Why the program was started
 - What services existed
 - Meeting of different agencies and individuals
- **Infrastructure was in place for program**
 - Bienvenidos already serving families
 - Agency had a relationship with community and other agencies in community



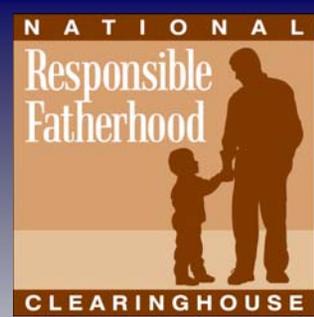
Challenges

- **Providing a safe place to meet**
- **Participants with drug and alcohol issues**
- **Participants involved in various gangs**
- **Anger issues**
- **Violent relationships**
- **Low job/academic skills**
- **No “Blueprint” for this type of program**



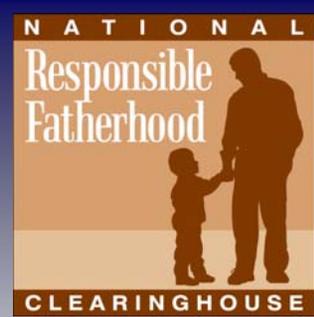
Strengths

- **Agency with solid history and good reputation in the community**
- **Culturally appropriate curriculum and program**
- **Caring staff**
- **Connected to growing network of compadres**



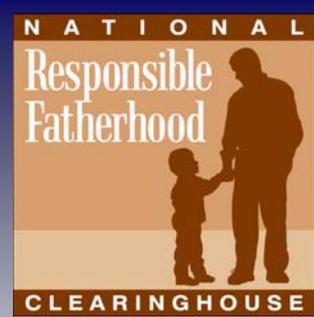
Recruit, Engage & Connect

- **Caring staff who make true, positive connections**
- **Program Entry Points (moms, community, word-of-mouth, etc)**
- **Food for Class Meetings**
- **Parenting instruction**



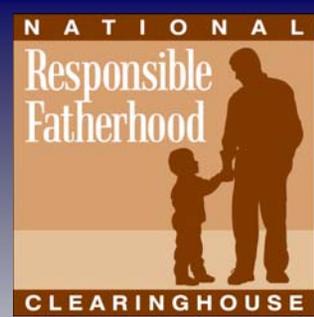
Recruit, Engage & Connect

- **Child support**
- **Custody/visitation**
- **Establishing paternity**
- **Counseling and mentoring**
- **Mediation to deal with relationships**
- **Outings**



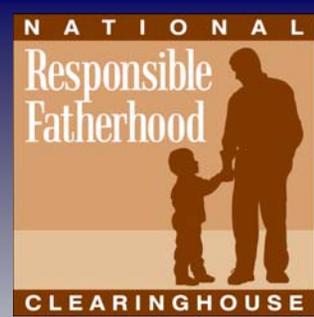
Ceremony and Tradition

- **Circulo**
- **Altar (acknowledgement of cultural lessons learned from ancestors)**
- **Respetar y leer**
- **Reading and storytelling**
- **Mascaras**
- **Buscando balance**

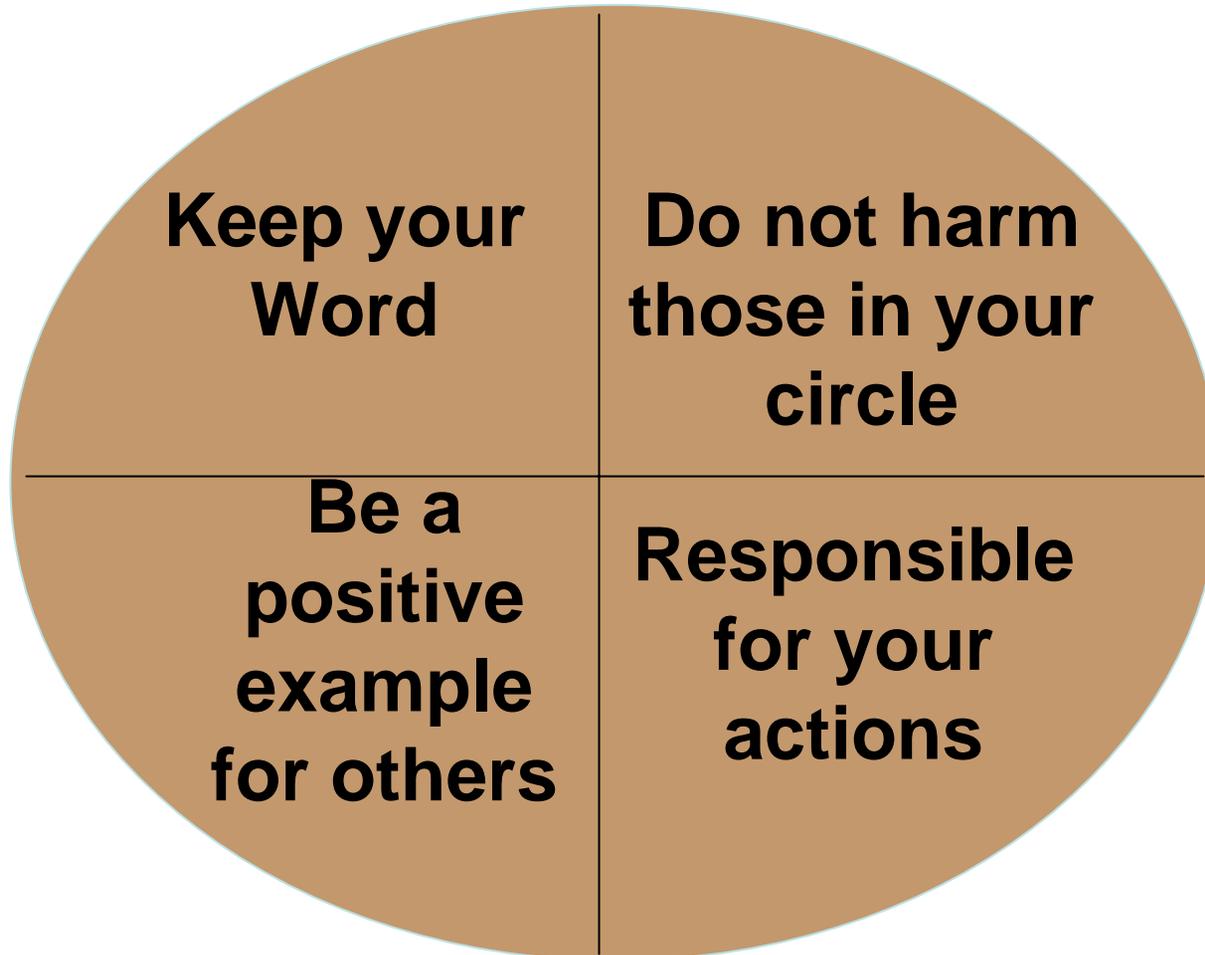


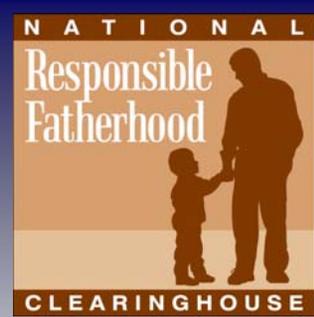
Stories/ Activities to Share

- **Fatherhood myth**
- **Dads not sharing; not caring**
 - **Diapers**
 - **I agree with that vato**
- **Alejandro**
- **Mascaras**
- **Ceremony and tradition**
- **Con Los Padres videos**



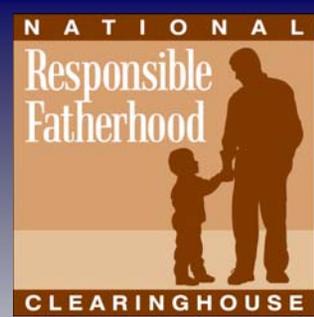
The Four Elements of Palabra





Challenges

- **Some dads still involved in violent relationships**
- **Some still using or drinking**
- **Some still in gangs**
- **Some dropped from program or out of contact**

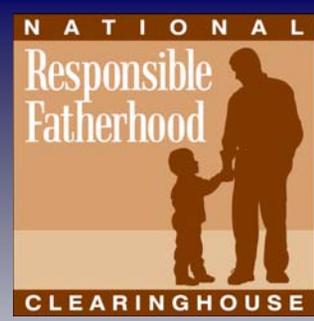


New Challenges and Issues

- **Growing legal issues**
 - Child support arrearages
 - Criminal records
 - Domestic Violence
 - Immigration
- **Changes in welfare laws & policies**
- **Healthcare (Physical, Mental, & Emotional)**
- **Substance Abuse**

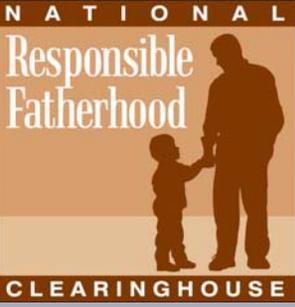
Young Dads Retreat





Teen Parents should be recognized and acknowledged





California State Assembly
Certificate Of
Recognition

PRESENTED TO:

Gustavo Moreno

IN HONOR OF:

Your commitment to strengthening and preserving your parental and family responsibilities. Your exemplary display of courage and resolve in overcoming tremendous obstacles to improve your quality of life is commendable. Best of luck for continued success!

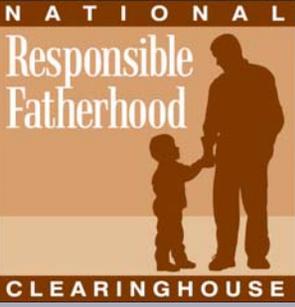
**Community and Mission Hospitals of Huntington Park
1st Annual "Con Los Padres" Program
December 13, 2001**



MARCO ANTONIO FIREBAUGH
MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY

50th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE

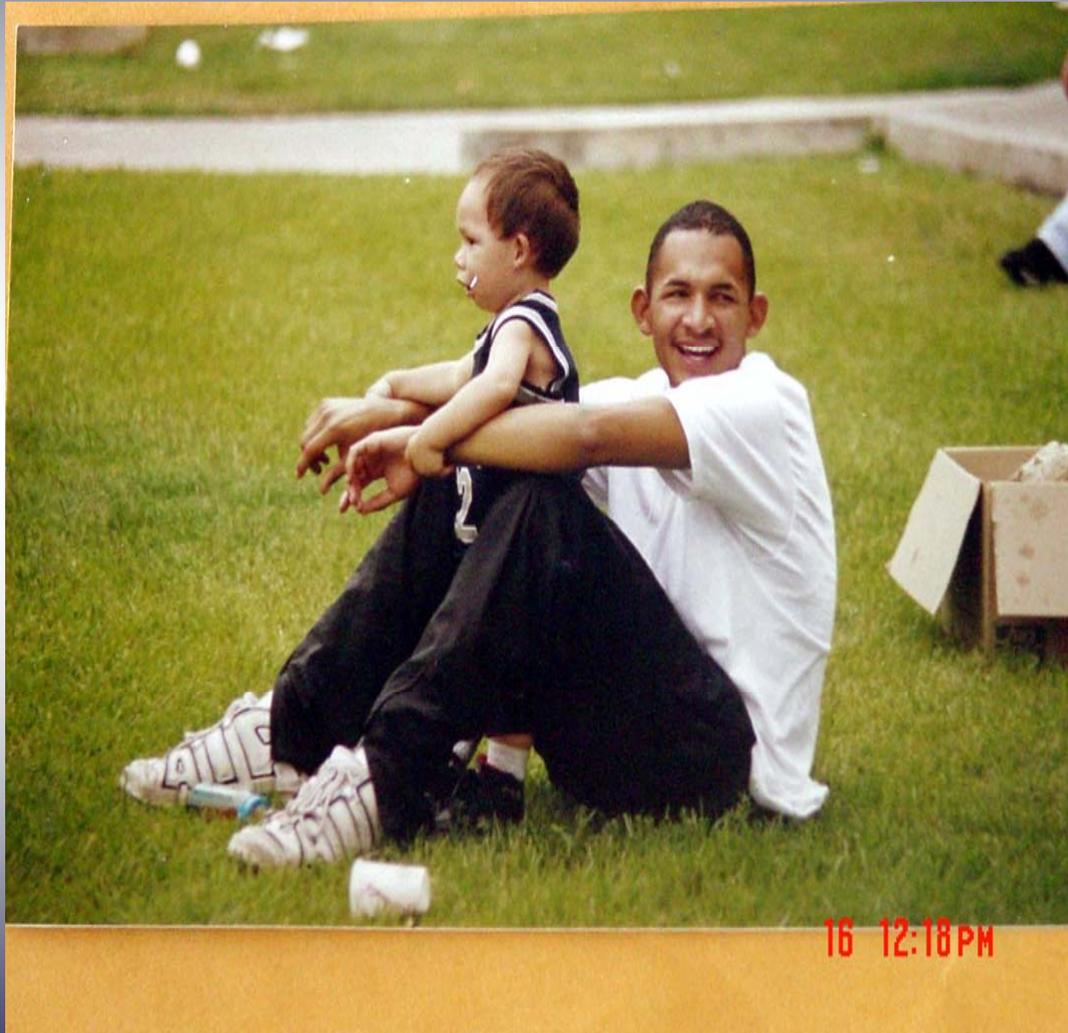
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Young Dads and their Children

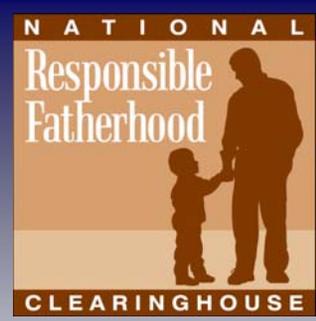


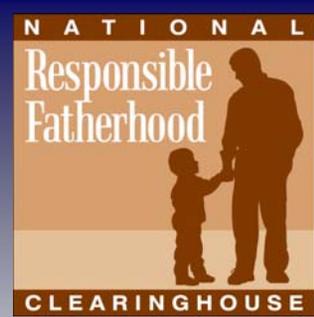






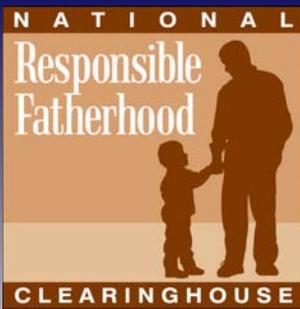






Summary

- Assess the needs of your community
- Assess your resources and what you can or cannot offer
- Be prepared for special needs and issues these young men bring
- How will you attract, serve and make change
- Networking and collaborating is key
- Show them you care!
- ¡Buena Suerte! – Good Luck!



**It was an honor to present to you today.
For more information and if you have additional questions
or comments, please contact me at:**

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