



## Key Programmatic Elements of Father Engagement to Promote Self-Sufficiency (KEEP Fathers Engaged)

<p>What is the focus of this study?</p>	<p>Research shows that father involvement helps children develop better cognitive and linguistic skills, increased school readiness and academic performance, and higher social-emotional development, among other benefits that can differ from mothers’ contributions to children’s well-being. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is committed to encouraging and enhancing father financial and parenting engagement to improve family self-sufficiency and safety and strengthen child well-being through all of its programming. HHS encourages state and local human services agencies to value both mothers’ and fathers’ contributions. This includes keeping fathers safely engaged in their children’s lives and avoiding intentionally or inadvertently excluding fathers – and their strengths and needs – in service delivery and program implementation. To that end, HHS’s Assistance Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) has contracted with Mathematica to conduct a study to identify key programmatic elements of father engagement.</p> <p>This study will answer key research questions about strategies used to engage fathers safely in social service programming. Specifically, it aims to document what is known about existing strategies and program models that are most effective for maintaining engagement of fathers including specific subpopulations of fathers, such as those with justice involvement, connection to the formal child support program, and substance use disorders. This study will aim to identify the critical elements of successful father engagement programs and models.</p>
<p>What data will the study collect?</p>	<p>This study relies on several data collection efforts to inform findings, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging federal and nonfederal experts (researchers, program administrators, and practitioners) in discussions about successful program models, strategies, and practices for engaging fathers.</li> <li>• Conducting a program scan and literature review to identify programs across a variety of practice fields that actively work to better engage fathers.</li> <li>• Developing case studies of promising programs and initiatives, providing examples of successful father engagement on the ground.</li> </ul>
<p>How will study findings be shared?</p>	<p>The study began in Fall 2019 and will end in Fall 2021. Study findings will be shared widely in 2020 and 2021 through multiple dissemination modes, including podcasts, webinars, briefings, infographics, and briefs.</p>
<p>To find out more</p>	<p>Contact Mathematica’s project director, Pamela Holcomb, by phone at (202) 250-3573 or by email at <a href="mailto:pholcomb@mathematica-mpr.com">pholcomb@mathematica-mpr.com</a>.</p>