

Fanning the Fatherhood **FIRE**:

A National Fatherhood Summit
June 4-6, 2019 | Nashville, Tennessee



Family-focused  Interconnected
Resilient  Essential

W11 **Engaging Noncustodial Parents to Improve Outcomes for Children: Findings From Research and Practice**

Presenters:

**Dr. Reginald Covington, Senior Researcher,
Mathematica, Washington, D.C.**

**Cheri Tillis, Executive Vice President,
Fathers' Support Center, St. Louis, Missouri**

**Sarah Culp, Case Manager,
Parent Employment Project/Parents to Work
Arapahoe County Child Support Services,
Arapahoe, Colorado**

From PACT to ASPIRE: Building evidence and learning approaches to engage noncustodial parents



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

ASPIRE



Guidance needed on how to serve noncustodial parents

- Noncustodial parent (NCP) involvement is associated with better outcomes for their children; yet, low-income NCPs face numerous barriers
- Field is searching for promising strategies to support NCPs
- To learn more, OFA funded two projects:
 1. The Parents and Children Together (PACT) evaluation, a large-scale examination of selected Responsible Fatherhood (RF) programs
 2. Assisting Special Populations in Readiness and Engagement (ASPIRE) project, an assessment of how agencies use TANF funds to boost NCP engagement



PACT Responsible Fatherhood Evaluation Characteristics

- Four fatherhood programs participated in the evaluation
- Sample size: 5,522 fathers enrolled from 2012-2015
- 50% randomly assigned to receive the program

Process study

Examined how RF programs were structured and operated as well as fathers' participation in the services offered

Qualitative study

Focused on understanding the broader contexts of fathers' lives through three rounds of in-depth interviews with a subset of fathers assigned to the program group

Impact study

Examined the effects and changes that program participation had on the fathers who received the program compared with those who did not



Responsible fatherhood programs in PACT



Connections to Success
Kansas City, Kansas and
Missouri

*Brad Lambert, Kathy Lambert,
and Brandi Jahnke*



Urban Ventures
Minneapolis,
Minnesota

*John Turnipseed and Stan
Hill*



**Fathers' Support
Center,**
St. Louis, Missouri

*Halbert Sullivan and
Cheri Tillis*

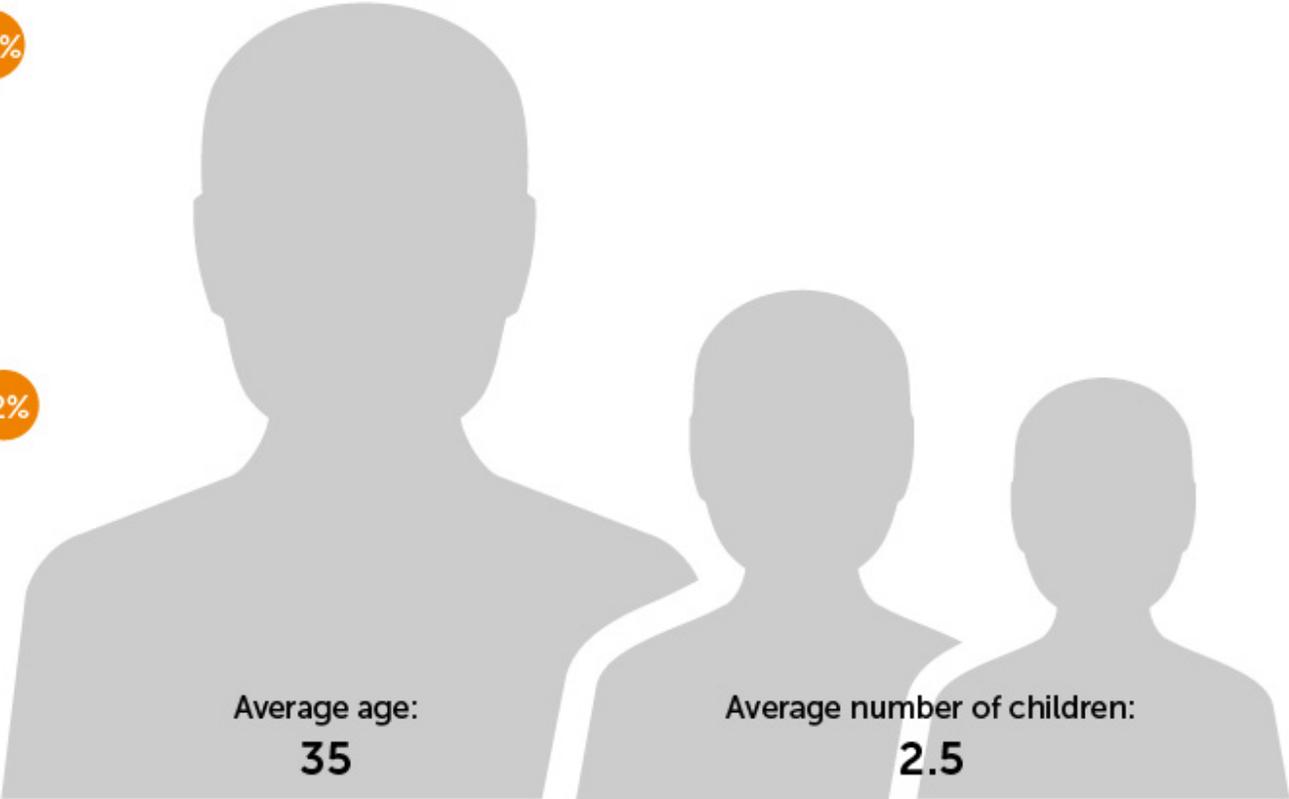
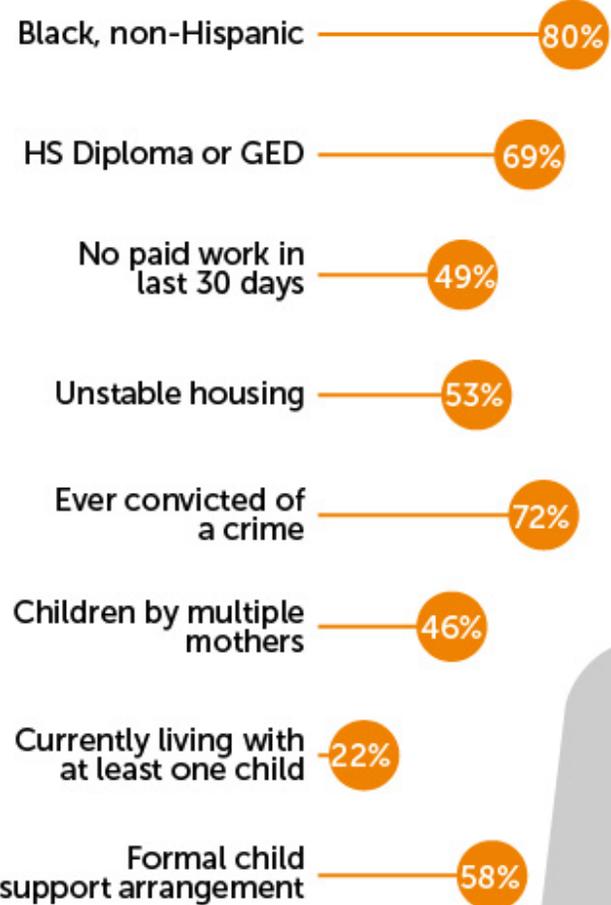


The FATHER Project,
Minneapolis/St. Paul,
Minnesota

*Andrew Freeburg and
Guy Bowling*



Portrait of PACT RF program participants



Core RF Services

- All programs offered three required service components: parenting, healthy relationships, and economic stability
 - They also covered personal development, although it was not required
- Two programs integrated most or all core content into one workshop and two offered a “menu” of services

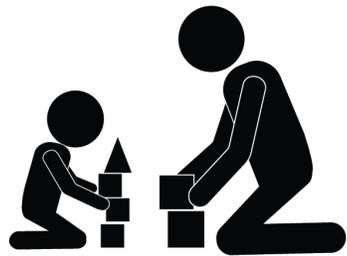


Impacts for RF Programs in PACT

Parenting



Activities with children
Nurturing behaviors



Healthy relationships



Economic stability



Consecutive quarters
employed



Well-being



 Significant positive difference compared to non-program group

 No significant difference between program and non-program group



How can ASPIRE build on PACT?

- Under ASPIRE, Insight and Mathematica are assessing the needs of NCPs and promising practices
 - Focus on state and local TANF agencies and their partners
- While the RF programs in PACT showed some success with parenting and economic stability, strategies to increase earnings and child support payments may need development
- TANF funds may help broaden and intensify services available to NCPs



How can we fan the FIRE?

- Use TANF funds to serve NCPs
 - TANF resources can be spent on activities that promote responsible parenting and foster economic stability
 - TANF partnership can help sustain key programs for NCPs and broaden services
- Promising ways to use TANF funds
 - Fund a fatherhood program (Arapahoe County)
 - Reduce state-owed child support arrears (Connections to Success, Kansas Department of Children and Families)
 - Provide workforce program for low-income NCPs (NCP Choices)



Fathers' Support Center, St. Louis

- **Family Formation Program**
 - Use trauma informed process of service delivery
 - Offer Career pathway development and employment placement
 - Provide comprehensive case management
- **TANF funds provide opportunities for innovation**
 - Using funds to serve mothers and fathers
 - Aiming to help establish co-parenting agreements



Fathers' Support Center, St. Louis Continued

- **Challenges**

- Seeing the value of fatherhood
- Adjusting to changing norms about relationships
- Establishing effective partnerships

- **Opportunities**

- Legal assistance for noncustodial parents
- Mental health and nutrition



PARENTS TO WORK

Arapahoe County Child Support Services

- **Parents to Work/ COPEP**
 - Reduce barriers to payment and increase employment among non-custodial parents and since June of 2017 custodial parents
 - Link child support efforts with employment programs
 - Reduce family dependence on public assistance
 - Facilitate better child to parent and co-parenting programs
- **How do we start?**
 - Funding – county and TANF funds
 - Meeting TANF goals
 - Rate of return on investment



PARENTS TO WORK

Arapahoe County Child Support Services

- **Challenges**

- Retention of participants
- Establishing program guidelines with flexibility
- Buy in from both parties, staff and community partners/agencies
- Continued resources

- **Opportunities**

- Buy in
- Build additional support and resources
- Trust in relationships
- Culture change

Run to Child Support not away from Child Support



Questions and Answers



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Stay in touch with us!

For More Information:

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