



NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER *for*
HEALTHY MARRIAGE *and* FAMILIES



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Engaging with Fathers to Strengthen Families **A Note from the Director**

Greetings,

Father's Day is June 17th. As we celebrate Dads for all that they do or have done, it's important to be mindful of the important influence they have on positive youth development. Summer often provides additional opportunities for families to spend time together. Family vacations and backyard barbeques are perfect events for family bonding and creating happy memories. Dads don't have to be present in the home to have a positive presence in the lives of their children. However, Dads who don't live in the home do have to be more intentional about creating and taking advantage of opportunities to spend time together. With blended families, scheduling and personality conflicts between adults can create barriers. As families and social service providers we need to celebrate and encourage these Dads who make the extra effort. I hope the tips and resources

below will be helpful to you and the families you serve as we work together to strengthen families by strengthening healthy relationships.

Best Regards,

Robyn Cenizal, CFLE
Project Director

Tip of the Month

Your monthly tip to strengthen the relationships of those you serve. Share it - Post it - Pass it on!

Fathers play an important role in the development of their children and families. Below are some tips from the former National Abandoned Infants Assistance Resource Center to aid service providers to positively engage the fathers they work with:

- **Discuss what being a good dad means to them** and what their dreams and aspirations are for themselves and their children.
- **Use a strengths-based approach** focusing on fathers capabilities instead of any deficits
- **Engage fathers in any discussion that involves the provision of a service or particular course of treatment for their child;** or emphasize with the mother, if she is the primary caretaker, that the father's involvement is vital.

You can find more tips like these in the former National Abandoned Infants Assistance Resource Center's [brief](#).

Featured Resources

The Resource Center's **Virtual Library** has collected more than 3,000 materials in a variety of formats including fact sheets, research-to-practice briefs, brochures, pamphlets, training resources, program reports or evaluations, and research materials.

- **One Big Happy "Blended Family:" Tips to Help Fathers Co-Parent Effectively**
One way to support fathers' family involvement is to assist them with effective co-parenting. Encouraging healthy relationship skill-building and healthy parenting can help blended families experience less conflict. This tip sheet for navigating

relationships with co-parents can be shared with fathers or printed and used as a handout in program offices or at events.

- **Engaging Fathers Part 1**

Child Welfare Information Gateway has developed a three-part podcast series on engaging fathers and working with fatherhood organizations. This first part features a conversation with leaders of local fatherhood organizations in which they share their perspectives and insights on the following: 1) examining fathers' value in the lives of their children; 2) creating a father-friendly child welfare system; 3) locating noncustodial fathers in your community; 4) partnering with fatherhood organizations as a resource to support child welfare practice; and 5) sharing the often unheard perspective of fathers. [Part 2](#) and [Part 3](#) are also available in the Resource Center library.

- **Engaging Low-Income Fathers in Home Visiting: Approaches, Challenges, and Strategies**

This brief highlights the experiences of a select group of home visiting programs in the United States that are engaging low-income fathers, including the approaches programs use, the challenges they face in engaging fathers, and the strategies they use to overcome these challenges.

Events

The Resource Center's **Events Calendar** offers a listing of Resource Center events and other national, regional, and community-wide events that might be of interest. Upcoming events include:

- **Resource Center Webinar on Working with Asian American Individuals, Couples, and Families, June 14, 2018, 2-3:30PM EST**

Please join the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families (Resource Center) for a new webinar that discusses the diversity of Asian American populations and provides targeted cultural information on dominant Asian demographic groups in the United States. The Asian population in the US includes at least 26 countries of origin, representing a range of languages and cultural groups. When stakeholders seek to learn and understand the complexities of one of the fastest growing immigrant group in the United States, Asian families are more likely to be receptive to programmatic messages and a stronger rapport can be built between client and service provider. This webinar will provide an overview of the Resource Center's newest toolkit, Working with Asian American Individuals, Couples, and Families: A Toolkit for Stakeholders, which focuses on

Asian immigration and history, the complexities of Asian groups, cultural considerations, and ways safety-net service providers can improve service delivery to Asian American families.

Register for the webinar [here](#).

- **2018 National Association of Social Workers (NASW) National Conference - Shaping Tomorrow Together, June 20-23, 2018**

The meeting of the social work profession will convene more than 2,000 social workers, like-minded professionals, and social work thought leaders for four days of unparalleled opportunities for professional development, continuing education, networking, and thought-provoking conversations tackling the most pressing issues facing the social work profession across the world.

- **2018 Groves Conference on Marriage and Family, June 10-13, 2018**

"Caring for Each Other: Family Caregiving Across the Generations" is the theme for the 2018 Groves Conference. Program chairs Sharon M. Ballard, Ph.D., CFLE, and Coco Readdick, Ph.D., invite family professionals to enjoy the beautiful state of Maine while engaging in stimulating presentations, panels, and excursions. Membership in Groves is not required to attend the conference.

Feedback and Technical Assistance

To learn more about the Resource Center, visit us at <http://www.healthymarriageandfamilies.org/>.

The National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families supports human service providers as they integrate healthy marriage and relationship education skills into service delivery systems as part of a comprehensive, culturally appropriate, family-centered approach designed to promote self-sufficiency.

If you have suggestions or wish to speak with a Resource Center staff member, please [contact us](#) and we will be happy to assist you. To learn more about free training and technical assistance available to human service agencies, visit our [Training and Technical Assistance page](#).

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