



Passages Connecting Fathers and Families

4600 Carnegie Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44103
<https://www.passages-oh.org/>

Contact: Jennifer Kearney
jenniferkearney@passages-oh.org
216-881-6776

FATHER ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

Service Area: Cuyahoga County

Historically, fathers have not been engaged within the child welfare system leaving them out of important decisions and outcomes that relate to their children and families. The engagement of fathers in the lives of their children has numerous benefits that have a positive impact on the well-being of their children. Father engagement improves child outcomes and finding unique ways to engage and support fathers is essential.

Mission: To improve inclusion of fathers in all steps of the child welfare process such as case planning, team meetings, court hearings, placement, and to educate and advocate among the PCSA staff about the importance of locating and including fathers leading to better outcomes for children.

Goals and outcomes:

As a result of the work that the Father Engagement Specialist undertakes, fathers will begin to strengthen and stabilize their lives and their families by becoming more involved in their children's lives in healthy ways, developing improved parenting skills, becoming work ready, and addressing and eradicating roadblocks that may be keeping them from their successes.

Specific goals and objectives to be achieved during the grant period include:

- Increased and improved father and paternal relative involvement in CCDCFS cases leading to more informed decisions and better outcomes regarding child safety and least restrictive placements.
- Increased and improved father involvement throughout the life of a case in order to reduce child length of stay, reduce repeat maltreatment, and increase permanency through reunification.

- Increased and improved father involvement and engagement to better the safety, stability, well-being, and permanency of children.
- Increased and improved understanding among CCDCFS staff of the necessity of ensuring a father's involvement in cases.
- Referrals to additional fatherhood programming as needed leading to enhanced skills which could lead toward employment and strengthened parenting skills for fathers completing the program.
- Individualized, wrap-around/ holistic case management services and referrals for those in need of an outside support including ensuring the father is engaged in case plan development, child support navigation, increased visitation by non-custodial fathers, access to transportation, housing, GED services, and basic needs.