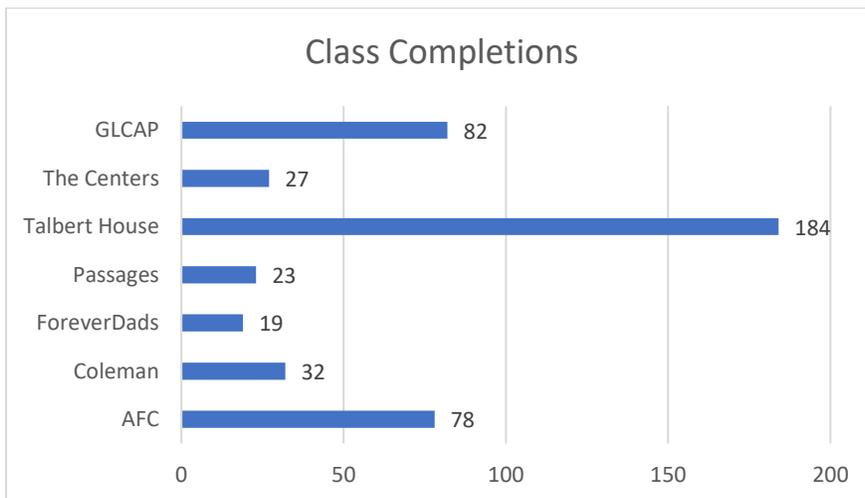


ENROLLMENT	TO DATE	YR END GOAL	For \$5,000 Bonus
Action For Children	188	12	62
The Centers	92	8	33
Coleman	61	39	64
ForeverDads	179	21	71
Passages	134	66	106
Talbert House	250	0	0
GLCAP	148	52	102
<b>TOTAL</b>	1052	198	

Five of the grantees serve multiple counties and are required to serve 200 fathers/year. Two grantees serve one county and must serve 100/yr. Can earn an add'l \$5,000 if serve 50 and 25 over annual goal.



All Grantees offer fatherhood classes using an evidence-based curriculum. The classes are typically offered in 1-2 hour sessions over several weeks. 445 fathers have completed at least 80% of the classes in the cohort.

EMPLOYMENT
Participants placed in Jobs = 109
Average hours per week = 37
Average hourly wage = \$11

Each father completes an intake survey and one of the questions asks, "List the top three things you need help with" from a list of 14 items fathers commonly request. "Finding a better job" or a "better paying job" are always among the top things fathers need help with.

Father-Child Relationships
16 fathers obtained a new court order regarding access, visitation or custody
90 Reported increased contact with their children
223 Reported Improved communication with children

*Increasing father engagement is, at its most basic, about helping dads change their behavior by increasing pro-fathering awareness, knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and habits.*

### **Devin B. - A Success Story - Passages**

On a late afternoon in early November 2018, Devin B came to Passages. We shook hands and Devin explained that he'd heard about our program from someone in the community. His first words were, "I need help," our response was "you've come to the right place." We sat down and talked for a good two hours. During this time he shared about his current situation which was that his 7-month old son was in the custody of the county and the mother of the child was waging a battle to regain custody. His son was removed from the mother due to her being arrested for abusing her two older children in public at Walmart. Devin was not present when this occurred and the two of them were not on good terms leading up to this incident.

We talked about what life was like growing up and how his grandmother raised him. How he found out when he was a teenager that the woman he thought was his mother was in fact his aunt. How he never knew his father. How he felt caught in a nightmare, thinking about his son being caught up in the same system he found himself in at a very young age, something he vowed to never let happen.

As with so many of our clients upon initial conversations, I found myself experiencing a deep sense of reverence in learning all that he had overcome in his walk of life to this point. We discussed his case plan that Children's Services had laid forth. Before getting custody of his son he needed to find steady employment and reliable child care and prepare his living environment to meet the needs of his son.

He had recently worked on the northeast side of Akron as an armed private security guard in a low-income apartment complex where he earned just \$10 an hour. Eventually, the stress and constant threat of danger became too unhealthy considering the pay he was receiving. We knew that getting him back to work as soon as possible was crucial to fulfilling his case plan so we placed him with Krispy Kreme as a delivery driver. The schedule would be sporadic and he would be working long hours, but he decided he would use it as a stepping stone to earn money quickly to meet his CSEA obligation as he pursued custody of his son.

Due to the fact that he wouldn't be able to attend Passages fatherhood classes during our regular hours, we agreed to meet with him for one-on-one sessions as he expressed a desire to improve his skills as a dad. Since working through these sessions he has reported improved communication with the mother of his child, lower stress levels through practicing mindfulness and meditation techniques he learned, increased self-care, and a positive change in his overall decision making and outlook on the future.

In order to assist him in preparing his home living environment for his son we referred him to Catholic Charities where he was provided with diapers, wipes, baby gates and formula. Passages staff provided baby blankets, bedding and helped him to arrange certified child care.

Yesterday he called to inform me that he just left his first unsupervised visit with his son and that his case worker informed him that he will be awarded custody! He was over the moon. Given the upcoming changes in his schedule we moved into a secondary phase for employment and placed him with a company where he will earn \$14/hr and have a set schedule Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. He will be starting there in two weeks after giving his notice to Krispy Kreme.

He plans to continue engaging with us weekly to finish the fatherhood development curriculum and wishes to remain a part of our support system. There are many stories like Devin's that take place and all too often we don't take the time to celebrate the victories because the work never ends.