

News Today

An online newsletter for ODJFS employees · Friday, April 5, 2013

5 More Counties Join Fatherhood Initiative

Five more Ohio counties recently signed on to participate in the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood's County Fatherhood Initiative. Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Lake, Lucas and Perry counties will receive training and guidance in how to design local programs to engage fathers and promote responsible parenting. In return, each will receive a one-time, \$10,000 seed grant to launch or continue programs in their communities.

"While the crisis of father absence is national, solutions must be found and implemented at the local level, one community at a time," said Kimberly Dent, the commission's executive director, at a March 8 training. "Moreover, in this time of budget shortfalls and rising needs, local leaders must build collaborations and coordinate services. With this in mind, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood created the Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative. Know that we are here as a resource."

The commission selected 12 initial counties to participate in the project in 2011: Clark, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Guernsey, Lorain, Mercer, Montgomery, Muskingum, Stark, Summit and Trumbull.

Each participating county assembles a leadership team comprised of a county commissioner or state representative, family or domestic relations judge, the director of the county child support enforcement agency, the director of the county children services agency, and the leader of a local business or faith-based organization.



Staff from five counties that have joined the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood's County Fatherhood Initiative participated in a March 8 training session in Columbus.

Over a period six months, the commission provides webinars, workshops and technical assistance free of charge. This includes:

- Training on how to conduct a local needs and assets assessment and on how to conduct outreach programs for fathers.
- Planning support to organize a local leadership summit on fatherhood.
- Assistance on how to implement a community action plan on fatherhood.
- Guidance in how to identify and apply for sustaining funding for county fatherhood initiatives.

For more information about the Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative, visit <http://www.fatherhood.ohio.gov>.