



Letter from the Director



It gives me great pride to present the state fiscal year 2019 annual report for the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood. The commission is a national leader in promoting programs that help fathers become better parents, partners, and providers. Housed within the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, it strengthens vulnerable families by funding programs that build fathers' parenting skills, prevent premature fatherhood, reconcile fathers with their families, increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play, and provide employment-related services for low-income, noncustodial fathers.

Research shows that children with fathers who are present in their lives have better cognitive outcomes, self-esteem, academic achievement, and economic stability. They have healthier development as children, are more empathetic, and are less likely to have problems with drugs and alcohol as teenagers. Given this profound and wide-ranging impact, dads really are superheroes in their children's lives – and this annual report reflects that.

To encourage father engagement, the commission funds community-based, nonprofit fatherhood programs throughout the state and serves as many as 8,000 fathers annually. We require all of our grantees to use an online case management system called "Efforts to Outcomes." Programs enter all the data related to their services directly and immediately, increasing both transparency and accountability and eliminating the need for paper files. Everyone with access to the system can view data in real time. They also can run performance reports and adjust strategies, as needed.

You can read the results of these data-collection efforts in the pages ahead. We are providing this report in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5101.342, which requires the commission and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to prepare a report each year that identifies resources available to fund fatherhood-related programs, explores the creation of fatherhood initiatives, and describes the commission's expectations and performance measurement methods.

Of course, you can learn more by visiting fatherhood.ohio.gov and/or following us on Facebook or Twitter. Thank you for sharing our interest in strengthening Ohio's families.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly A. Dent". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kimberly A. Dent,
Executive Director
Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

The Importance of Father Involvement

All children deserve to have two responsible parents involved in their lives. For many children, father absence is the sad reality. In Ohio and across the country, the number of children born to unmarried parents has steadily increased. In Ohio, 28% of children live in female-headed households with no father present, compared to 23% nationally¹.

Children growing up in single-parent families typically do not have the same economic or human resources available as those growing up in two-parent families. Compared with children in married-couple families, father absence places children at greater risk for alcohol and substance abuse, child abuse, criminal behavior, lower educational success, emotional and behavioral problems, poverty, suicide, and teen pregnancy². Children make up 22% of Ohio's population and all of its future.

What is the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood?

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood seeks to improve the well-being of Ohio's children by helping fathers become better parents, partners, and providers. Commissioners include the directors of state agencies, bipartisan members of the Ohio House and Senate, representatives from the Ohio Supreme Court, and citizens chosen because of their knowledge of fatherhood issues. As part of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the commission strengthens vulnerable families by funding programs that serve low-income fathers.

This state fiscal year 2019 annual report provides a summary of organizations funded, fathers served, and program outcomes for the time period July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019. It is meant to be read in conjunction with *Fatherhood programs: factors associated with retention, completion, and outcomes*, the final report compiled by an **Ohio University research team**³ after conducting an extensive evaluation of Ohio Commission on Fatherhood funded programs for state fiscal year 2019. To view this report, visit frpn.org.

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood meetings are held five times a year and are open to the public. For more information, visit fatherhood.ohio.gov.

¹U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey

²Father Facts, 8th edition

³Spjeldnes, S., Shadik, J.A., Ruhil, A., Kloepper, D., and Bell, Z. (2019, October), Athens: Ohio University

Our Commissioners

Commissioners	Appointed By:
Kara Bertke-Wente, Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)	ODJFS Director
Susan Brown, Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency	Ohio Supreme Court
Sen. David Burke	President of the Ohio Senate
Sen. Hearcel Craig	President of the Ohio Senate
Mike Davis, Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC)	ODRC Director
Joseph Hill, Ohio Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS)	Ohio MHAS Director
James Jackson, Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS)	ODYS Director
Sarah LaTourette, Ohio Family and Children First	Families and Children First
Randy Leite, Ohio University	Governor
Rep. Riordan McClain	Speaker of the Ohio House
Scott Neely, Children's Hunger Alliance	Governor
Ann Ream, Summit County Children Services	Governor
Michele Reynolds, Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives	Governor's Designee
John Silverman, Midland Atlantic Properties	Governor
Rep. J. Todd Smith	Speaker of the Ohio House
Socrates Tuch, Ohio Department of Health (ODH)	ODH Director
Rep. Terrance Upchurch	Speaker of the Ohio House
Rep. Thomas West	Speaker of the Ohio House
Tarik White, Ohio Department of Education (ODE)	ODE Superintendent

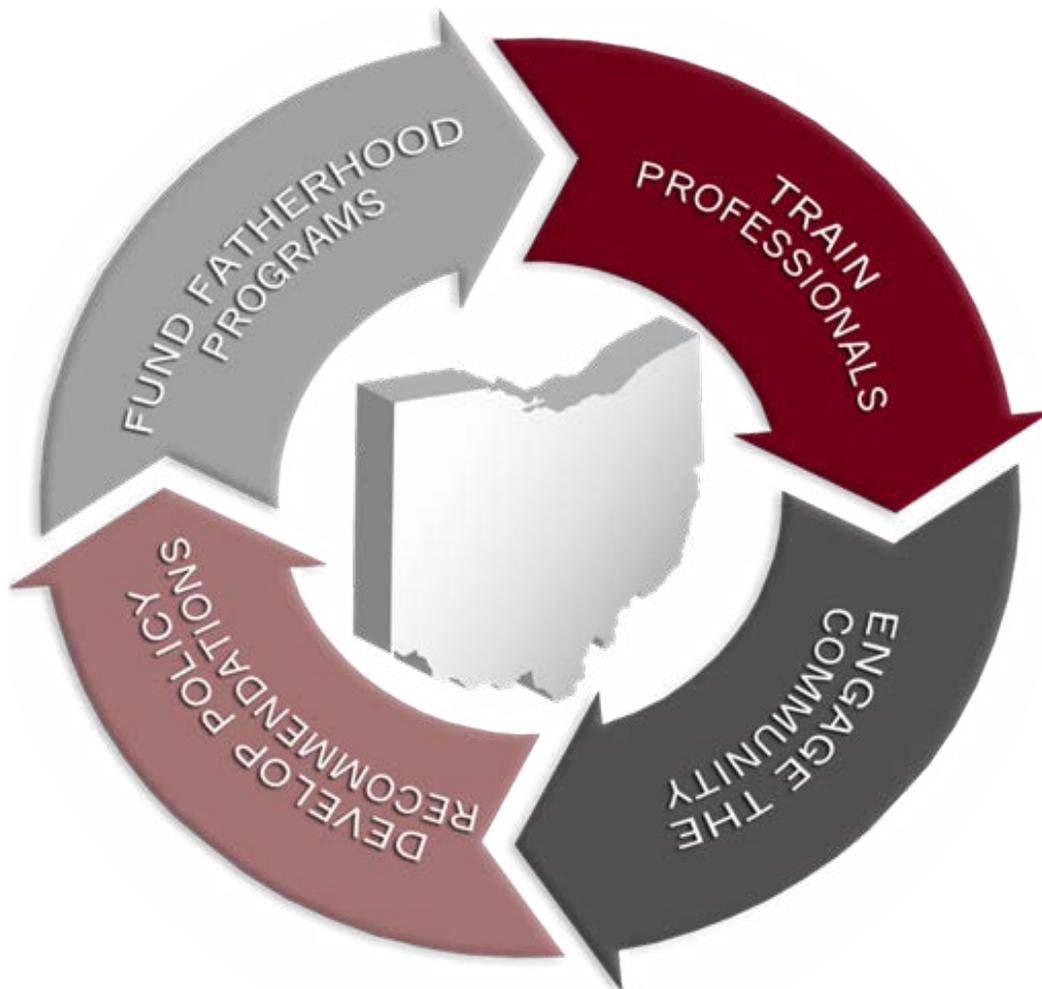


(Left to right, standing) Rep. Todd Smith, Tarik White, Rep. Thomas West, Socrates Tuch, Scott Neely, James Jackson, Rep. Riordan McClain and Mike Davis (Left to right, seated) Susan Brown, Michele Reynolds, Kimberly Dent and Ann Ream

Our Purpose

Many of the fathers served by commission-funded programs were raised in father-absent homes and, therefore, lack experience in what it means to be a committed, involved, and responsible father. Funded fatherhood programs help fathers and families improve **economic stability** when they help fathers prepare for, find, and retain employment; they foster **responsible parenting** through skills-based classes and individualized mentoring; and they promote **healthy relationships** through conflict resolution and communications skills training.

In addition to funding fatherhood programs throughout the state, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood makes policy recommendations regarding fathers, engages the community, and trains county leaders in how to mobilize their community to promote responsible fatherhood. This framework allows the commission to strategically promote father engagement on all levels.



Our Grantees

Action for Children provides assistance with parenting and co-parenting skills, paternity establishment, parenting time and child support, employment services, and other free resources to help fathers in Delaware, Franklin, Licking, Marion, and Union counties build relationships with their children.

Coleman Services partners with Allen County Child Support and other organizations to help fathers overcome barriers to building strong families through sessions that educate, support, and inspire.

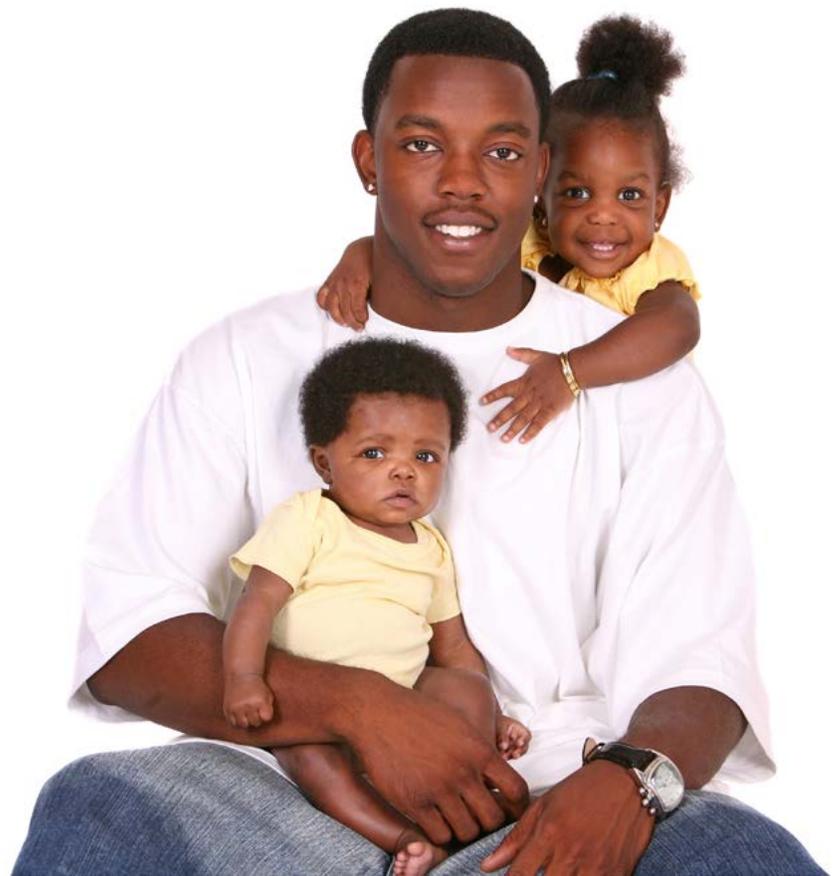
Forever Dads provides fathers in Muskingum, Perry, Guernsey, and Noble counties with fatherhood coaching, parenting programming, employment training, community service opportunities, and other services.

Great Lakes Community Action Partnership helps fathers in Wood, Sandusky, Ottawa, and Seneca counties grow, learn, and excel at the most important job they have: being a dad.

Passages Ohio and its partners provide workforce development trainings, father and child retreats, family retreats, custody and visitation referrals, legal assistance, child support direction, and other services for fathers in Lorain and Portage counties.

Talbert House assists men in Butler, Hamilton, and Warren counties in their efforts to become responsible, committed, and nurturing fathers, through classes, coaching, fellowship support meetings, and legal, employment, and housing assistance.

The Centers for Families and Children provides fathers in Cuyahoga County with tools to be caring, committed, and responsible fathers.



Facts and Figures

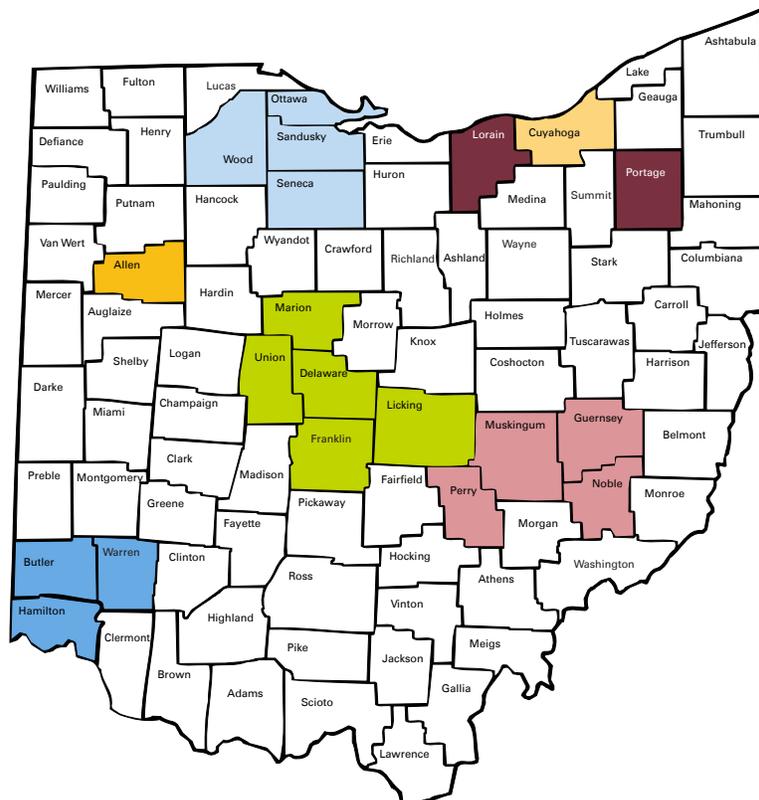
Geographical Location

In state fiscal year 2019, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood funded seven community-based nonprofit fatherhood programs throughout Ohio. All grantees were required to have staff dedicated to providing the following services:

- Individualized services to remove barriers to father involvement;
- Fatherhood classes using an evidence-based curriculum;
- Help preparing for, finding, and keeping a job;
- Data collection using the web-based Efforts to Outcomes case management tool.

Where the Money Went

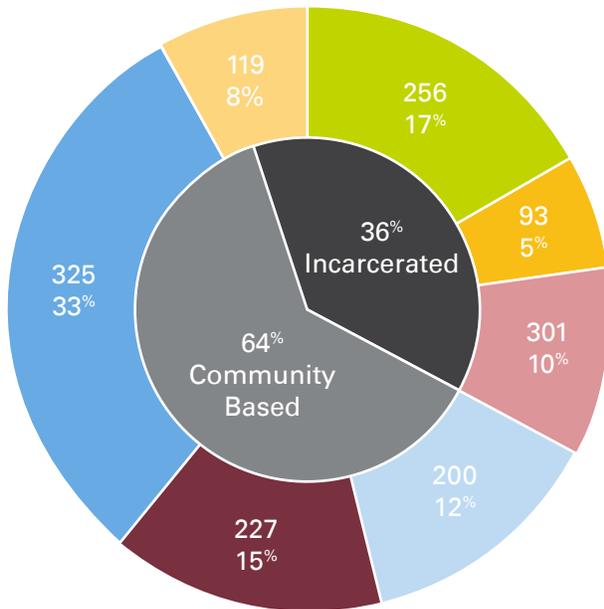
Fatherhood Grantee	Amount
Action for Children	\$125,000
Forever Dads	\$125,000
Passages	\$125,000
Talbert House	\$125,000
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership	\$125,000
The Centers for Fathers and Families	\$55,000
Coleman Professional Services	\$55,000
SUBTOTAL	\$735,000
Other	Amount
Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families	\$20,100
Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative	\$40,000
Administrative Costs (salaries, printing and communications)	\$256,900
TOTAL	\$1,052,000



Fathers Served

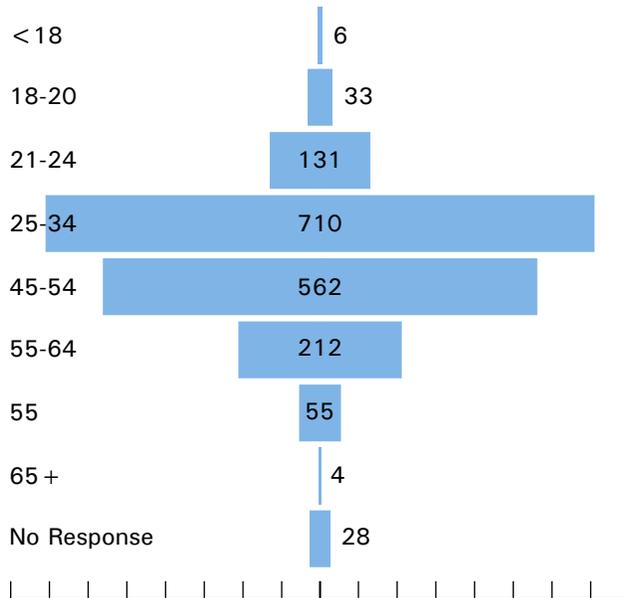
Together the following grantees served 1,745 fathers. Most of the grantees exceeded their annual service goals for fathers, some significantly.

Grantee	Number of Fathers Served	Percentage of Annual Goal
Action for Children	297	149%
Coleman Services	84	84%
Forever Dads	175	88%
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership	218	109%
Passages	256	128%
Talbert House	576	288%
The Centers	139	139%
SUBTOTAL	1745	145%



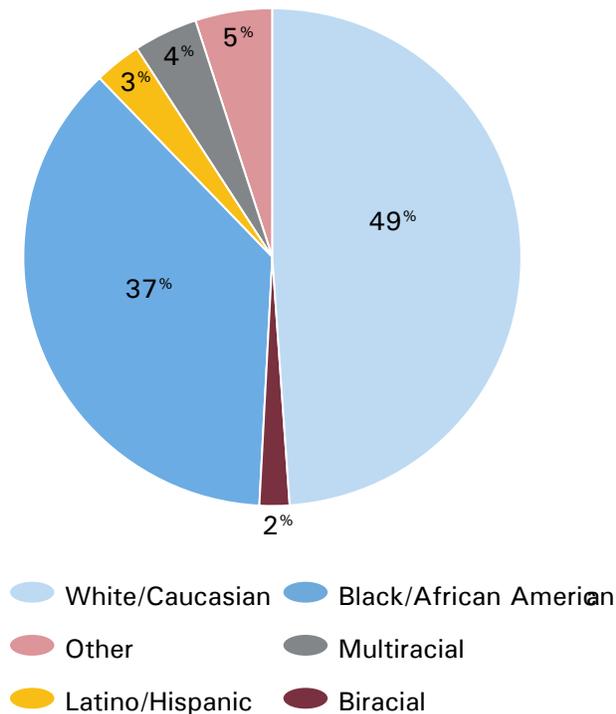
Demographic Profile of Fathers Served

Age of Fathers



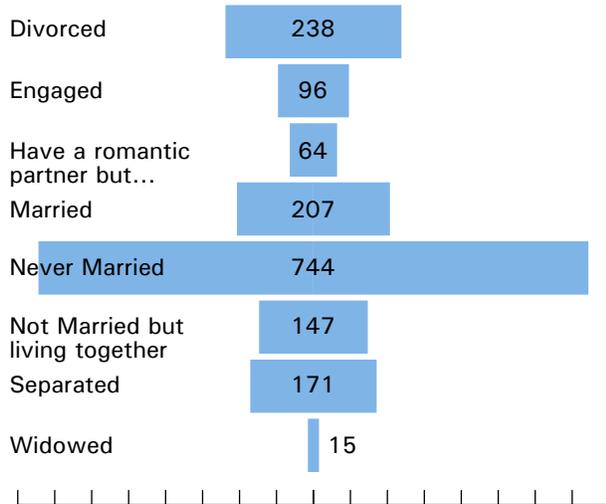
Over 73% of the fathers served were between 25 and 44 years old. Fewer than 1% were under 18 or over 65.

Race of Fathers



According to U.S. Census data, Ohio's African-American community accounted for 13% of the state's population in 2018. Yet, approximately 37% of the fathers served by commission grantees were black.

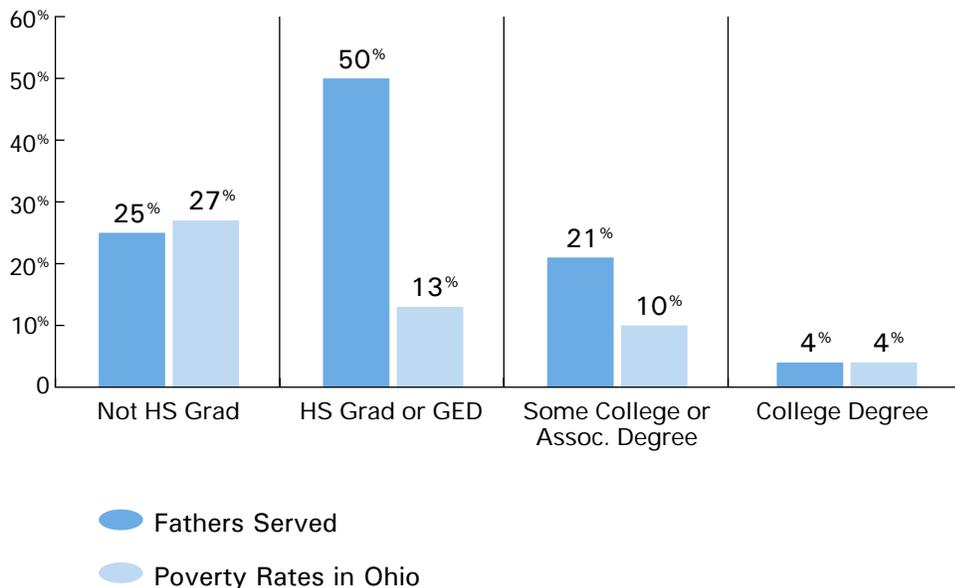
Marital Status of Fathers



Almost 43% of the fathers served never married. This mirrors the percentage of children living in female-headed households with no father present. About 40% of those children lived in poverty in Ohio in 2017.

Education, Poverty, and Employment

Poverty Rates in Ohio by Educational Attainment



For about half of the fathers served, the highest educational degree they attained was a high school diploma or equivalent. About a quarter of the fathers served had no degree. There is a strong correlation between low degree attainment and poverty.

Income at Enrollment

In the past 30 days, how much did you earn?	Number of Participants	Percentage
I did not earn any money	487	28%
Less than \$500	662	38%
\$500-\$1,000	203	12%
\$1,001-\$2,000	193	11%
More than \$2,000	86	5%
I receive disability income	8	0.46%
No response	102	6%
		100.00%

Employment Status at Enrollment

What is your current job status	Fulltime	Parttime	Self-employed	Temporary	Work release	Work in prison	Not employed	Participant Count
Sum:	374	114	89	55	2	117	940	1741

Areas Where Fathers Want Help

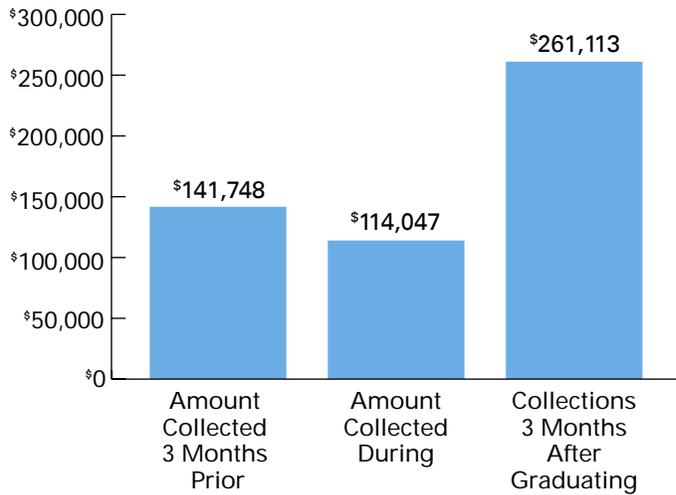
What are the top areas where you need help?	Participant Count
Getting to see my child(ren) more often	337
Finding a job	298
Learning to be a better father/parenting skills	213
Child support payments or debts	151
Reinstating my driver's license	119
Custody issues	85
Finding a better-paying job	84
Obtaining a high school diploma or equivalent	70
Obtaining a technical or vocational certification	65
Improving my relationship with my child(ren)'s mother	47
Substance abuse treatment/counseling	34
Help with anger management	12
Expecting a baby—need help preparing	10
Help getting work clothes	6
Help paying court fees or fines	3

One of the top needs fathers report when seeking services is help finding a job. Because of this high need, and because part of the commission's mission is to help fathers provide for their families, all grantees are required to offer employment services. Here are the results of those efforts in state fiscal year 2019:

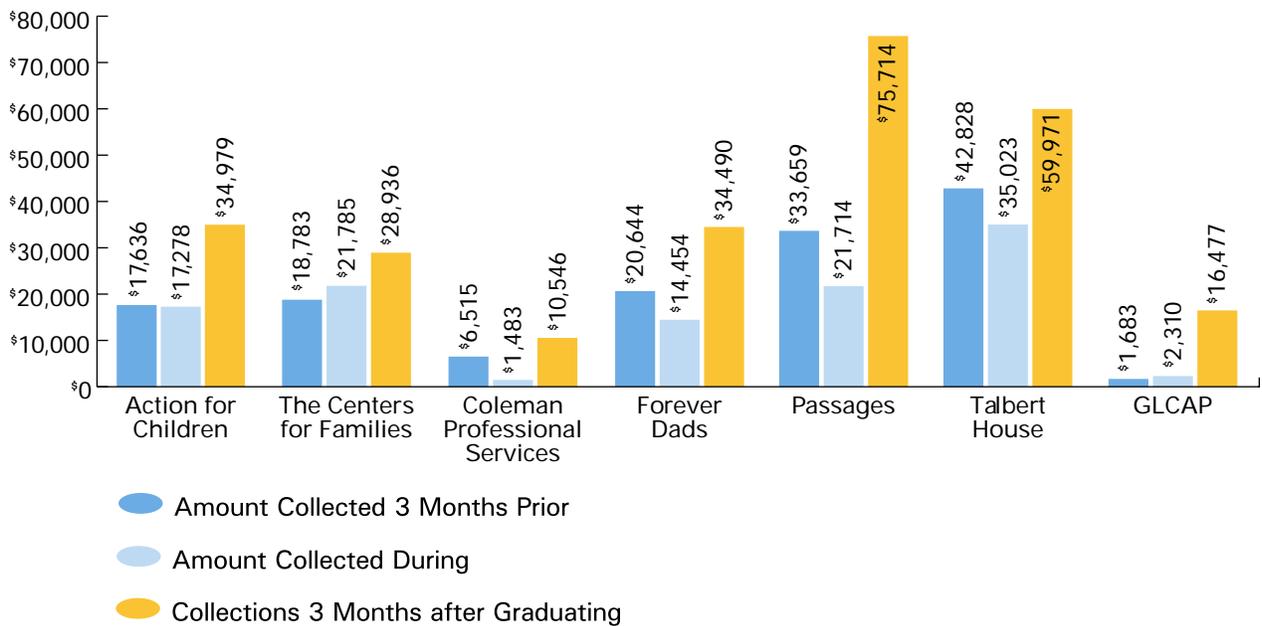
- Number of fathers placed into jobs: 192
- Number of fathers placed into full-time jobs: 128
- Average hours worked per week: 37.4
- Average hourly wage: \$12
- Highest hourly wage: \$44, for an information technology project manager position

Child Support Paid by Participants

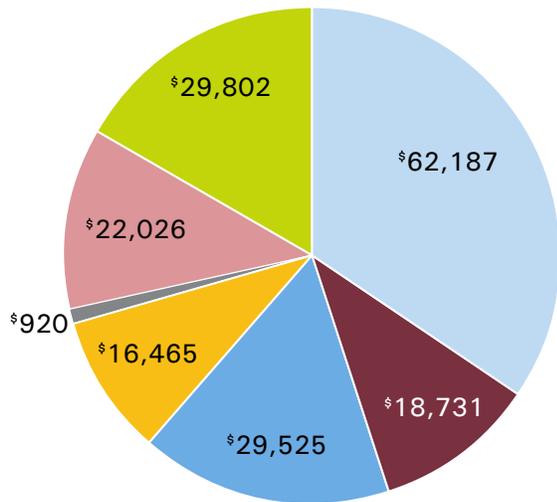
Summary for All Participants Completing a Commission-Funded Program



Summary by Grantee



New Payors (First Time Paying Child Support)



Child support successes reported by fathers in state fiscal year 2019:

- Child support orders reviewed: 70
- Child support orders modified: 45
- Child support arrears reduced or waived: 34
- Driver's licenses reinstated: 62
- New parenting time orders: 43
- Total amount of first-time payments paid by participants: \$179,656

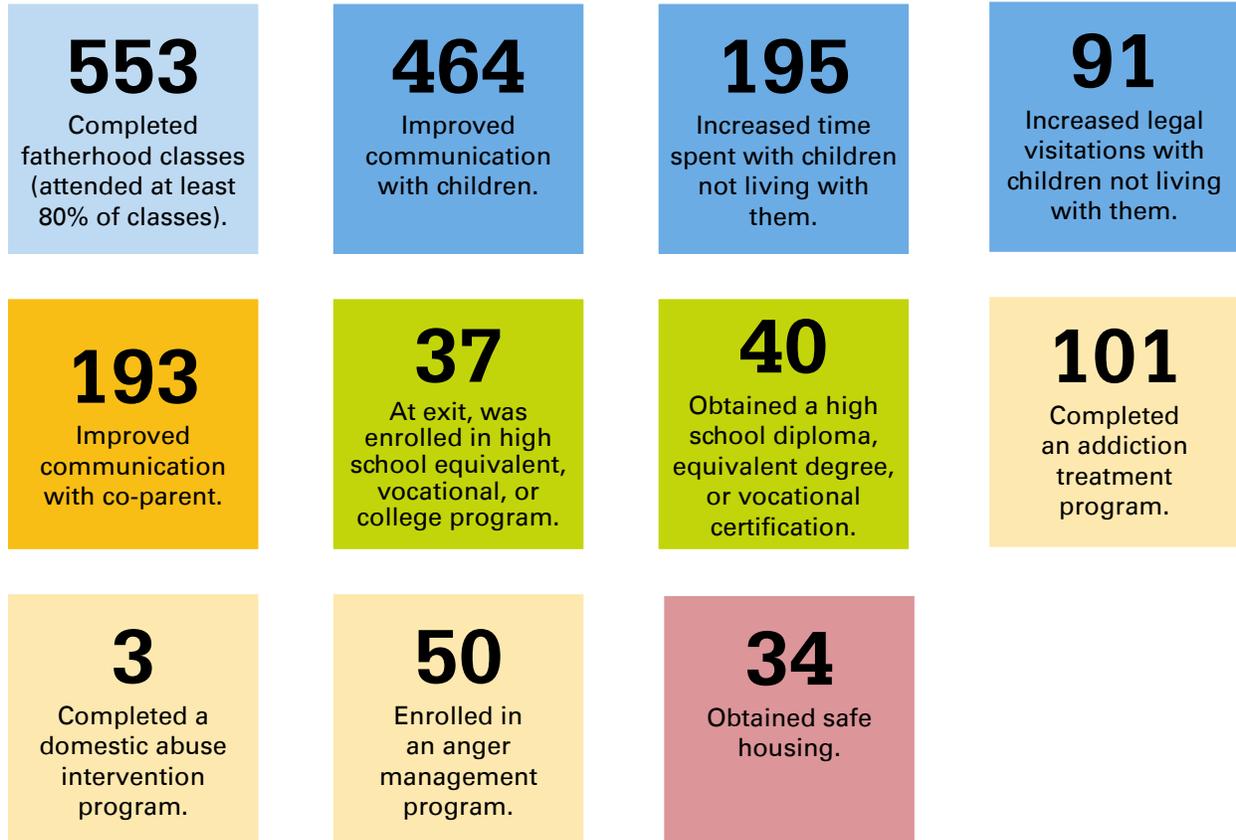


“ Great program. It helped me through all of the steps in getting a job and kept me motivated during the whole process. ”

–Father comment from exit survey

Outcomes Achieved

Of the fathers served in state fiscal year 2019 by commission-funded grantees, 836 completed exit surveys. They reported the following accomplishments:



-  Fatherhood classes
-  Interaction with children
-  Coparenting
-  Educational attainment
-  Treatment
-  Housing

Collaborations with Other Ohio Agencies

The commission works closely with...

- The Ohio Departments of Health and Medicaid to continue to address high infant mortality rates in Ohio. Research shows that when fathers encourage breastfeeding, don't smoke, and practice safe sleep habits with their babies, infant mortality rates decline.
- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Office of Child Support on various policies and strategies to ensure that Ohio's child support services foster father engagement and serve children's best interests.
- The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on family engagement and child support strategies for incarcerated noncustodial parents.
- The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to ensure that funded community programs work together to serve Ohio's families and communities.
- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Office of Families and Children on father engagement strategies for families involved in the children services system.





MISSION: To enhance the well-being of Ohio's children by providing opportunities for fathers to become better parents, partners, and providers.

To learn more, please visit fatherhood.ohio.gov.



Mike DeWine, Governor
State of Ohio

Kimberly Hall, Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

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