

Fatherhood Research and Practice Network State Planning Mini Grants on Fatherhood

Announcement of a Request for Mini Proposals

The Fatherhood Research and Practice Network (FRPN) is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds to support state planning projects to enhance the development and/or sustainability of state level initiatives to promote father inclusion in policies and practices of state agencies, departments and programs that serve families. FRPN anticipates making up to 12 awards of \$10,000 for projects that are doable within a nine-month timeframe. Each project will conclude with the development of an Action Plan that summarizes activities taken during the project, lessons learned, and planned next steps. The Action Plan must be submitted by August 15, 2019. Administrative overhead or indirect costs may not exceed 15%; these costs will be included as part of the total award. All grant funds must be spent or committed by September 15, 2019.

Grant funds must be used at least in part to assess father-inclusive practices, policies and publications in targeted state agencies and programs that serve families, and to identify areas of needed action to achieve greater inclusivity. In addition, funds may be used for a variety of other activities pertaining to developing a fatherhood initiative, including, but not limited to: convening a training on fatherhood, inclusive practices, and how to conduct agency assessments; conducting regular meetings of an interagency group comprised of representatives of state agencies, departments, and programs that serve fathers; conducting facilitated discussions on fatherhood that will lead to the development of a purpose statement, an organizational structure and/or plan for funding; obtaining assistance with facilitation, marketing, and/or evaluation; identifying top fatherhood issues and needs for various state partners and stakeholders; assessing father-inclusive practices in partner state agencies and programs, and gaps to be addressed by a fatherhood initiative; holding focus groups with fathers whose children or families receive state services, retaining experts to assist with the development of a fatherhood initiative; and hosting a fatherhood convening or summit.

Applicants must have already assembled a planning group for the initiative that includes the State Child Support (IV-D) Director or his/her designee as well as a researcher with a focus on fatherhood and/or family policy. In addition, the planning group must include at least one other high-level state leader such as a director of a state agency or program that serves fathers and families, or a legislator, or a state court administrator or Chief Judge, or a representative of the governor's staff.

The project must culminate in the development of a written Action Plan. The Plan should summarize activities conducted under the grant including its assessment of public agency policies, practices, and publications regarding father inclusion, lessons learned, challenges identified, and present next steps. As part of the description of next steps, applicants should include a time frame to share the Action Plan with other relevant stakeholders such as an appropriate legislative oversight committee or commission (*e.g.* a commission on children or two-generation initiatives), list the collaborating partners, identify sources of funding, specify policy or procedural updates, define measures of success, and set milestones for completion. The purpose of the Action Plan is to keep the initiative going following the termination of FRPN funding, help other states that are interested in replication, and build the body of evidence about fatherhood initiatives and how to make systems-level change.

The award will be made to a single organization that will be responsible for accepting the award and administering the grant. To be eligible, applicant organizations must be a public or private university, a research organization, a non-profit with 501(c)(3) IRS status, or a state or local government agency based in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Applicants who are awarded grants must agree to comply with U.S. Department of Health and Human Service requirements for subawards (see Grants Policy Statement at <http://www.hhs.gov/asfr/ogapa/aboutog/hhsgps107.pdf>, pages II-2 ("flow down") and II-78).

Grantees must agree to participate in FRPN-sponsored learning community and evaluation activities. This will include a bi-monthly check-in/learning community call with FRPN and other

grantees, participating in a cross-site policy evaluation that FRPN will conduct, and participating in a cross-site webinar that focuses on project activities and lessons learned.

Application Process

Invited applicants should submit a proposal that is up to 5 pages, double-spaced, and addresses items 2-6. Only one application may be submitted per state. Please also include a half-page abstract that summarizes your project, which we will share with our federal program officer.

1. Abstract (1/2 page)
2. The status of the fatherhood initiative at point of application: What activities have you undertaken already?
3. The goal of the project: Where are you heading? What big organizational, budgetary, and substantive issues need to be addressed?
4. Planned activities: What will you try to accomplish over the next 9 months? What steps will you take to get closer to the goals you outlined in #3?
5. Description of the applicant organization and project director.
6. Key partners and stakeholders: Who are the current members of the planning group for the fatherhood initiative and what is their title and organizational affiliation?
7. Letters of support from: 1) the State Child Support Director, 2) At least one other high-level state official, 3) A researcher with a focus on fatherhood or family policy.
8. A timeline or milestone chart.
9. A draft budget with narrative showing projected expenditures (administrative overhead/IC may not exceed 15%). What will you spend the money on?
10. Resume for project director.

What to Expect in the Grant Agreement

FRPN will collaborate with grantees to ensure funded projects are successfully executed. As a condition of their award, awardees will be asked to:

- Notify and seek prior approval for *major* changes to the original plan outlined in the proposal.

- Participate in bi-monthly telephone meetings to review progress of the project, identify, and address any challenges, and/or share learnings with other grantees.
- Submit an Action Plan that summarizes activities undertaken under the grant, lessons learned, and planned next steps by August 15, 2019.
- Participate in a cross-site evaluation to assess changes in policy regarding fatherhood and the factors that enhance and inhibit positive change.
- Participate in an FRPN webinar to disseminate project findings.

Timeframe and Questions

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis from October 15, 2018 through December 30, 2018.

Awards will be announced on a rolling basis through January 30, 2019. Please contact Jessica Pearson (jspearson@centerforpolicyresearch.org) with questions.