

Fathers & Families Support Center

HELP FOR FATHERS, HOPE FOR FAMILIES

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Mission: to foster healthy relationships by strengthening families and communities.

Vision: Every father is a responsible father committed to a cohesive family relationship.

Goal: to break the cycle of poverty, child neglect and abuse, and welfare dependence by educating and preparing fathers to become responsible parents with the financial stability to support their children materially and the parenting skills to support them emotionally and developmentally.

Our History: Fathers & Families Support Center (formerly Fathers' Support Center) began in 1997 with one employee, founder Halbert Sullivan, holding the first class in 1998. Starting as a small service agency dedicated to helping transform fathers disengaged from their children into nurturing parents, ready to support their children, FFSC has grown into a comprehensive service agency with 45 full-time employees, **having reached 20,000 fathers and nearly 50,000 children.**

Return on Investment: A current, conservative estimate shows that in 2022, Fathers & Families Support Center returned \$15,371,939.37 to the St. Louis community on an investment of \$ 3,079,266 (our 2022 program expenses).

Our Services:

- **Family Formation Program**, the core program of FFSC, is a year-long support program beginning with a rigorous, six-week, "full immersion" instructional portion. Participants develop parenting skills for nurturing their children's development. Graduates receive supportive services for at least one year. Both fathers and mothers are invited to attend.
 - **Legal Services** offers high-quality, legal counsel in family law. Participants in the Family Formation Program receive legal services in the areas of child support payment modifications, legal visitation, child custody, and more.
- **Employment/Mentoring** is available to participants in the Family Formation Program. The focus is on developing job readiness/retention skills culminating in job placement.
 - **Reentry Services** FFSC provides training and employment services for reentering citizens from the St. Louis Transition Center.
- **Youth Leadership & Development** encourages high-risk youth to become responsible citizens by avoiding high-risk behaviors such as gang involvement, drug/alcohol abuse, and unhealthy relationships. Staff assist youth with setting and pursuing educational and careers goals.
- **Fathers' Rap** meets after usual work hours and provides supportive services for Family Formation alumni.

Community Impact: Every father who gains employment and supports his family represents a significant change which has profound implications for the children, the family, and the community. For example, in 2022:

- **90% of participants** gained knowledge about how to have safe and healthy relationships.
- **91% of participants** gained positive parenting skills.
- **92% of FFSC participants** report increased interaction with their children.
- **3% Recidivism rate** for participants of FFSC's Re-Entry Project. National average is 22%.
- Average wage that **FFSC participants earned in 2022 was \$15.59** compared to state's minimum wage of \$11.15.
- Despite the pandemic, **256 participants agency-wide obtained or maintained employment, resulting in \$8.8M reinvested** back into the local economy.
- **FFSC helped the State of Missouri collect \$1,674,410.28 in child support – in one year - paid by Family Formation participants.**

Recognition: Mathematica Policy Research conducted a study of fatherhood programs for the US Department of Health and Human Services, the results of which show FFSC as a model program of its type. Additionally, FFSC is a United Way Member Agency and has full recognition from the National Council on Accreditation (COA), which shows adherence to the highest standards in client services, outcomes, record keeping and accountability. **FFSC is one of only 44 out of 54,000 not-for-profits in Missouri to achieve that distinction.**