

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fathers & Families Support Center Champions Child Support Awareness Month: Empowering Parents, Enriching Lives

ST. LOUIS, MO – August 1, 2025 – Fathers & Families Support Center (FFSC) of St. Louis proudly announces its observance of August as Child Support Awareness Month, having helped the State of Missouri **collect over \$5.9 million in child support from its program participants since 2019**, an impact CEO Cheri Tillis proudly acknowledges.

"Every child deserves the chance to reach their full potential," explains Cheri Tillis, CEO of Fathers & Families Support Center. "And consistent child support isn't just a helping hand; it's a fundamental building block for that future. Our **Employment Development & Mentoring Program (EDMP)** is designed precisely for parents who've faced employment challenges, guiding them toward successful, full-time careers that empower them to consistently support their children and truly invest in their futures."

FFSC has been at the forefront of empowering men to become responsible and engaged parents, capable of providing consistent child support, largely thanks to its highly successful **Employment Development & Mentoring Program (EDMP)**. This program, a cornerstone of FFSC's services, truly turns possibilities into reality, equipping fathers and mothers with the financial means to take an active and meaningful role in their children's lives and to become contributing members of the community. The EDMP consistently achieves outstanding results for participants and their families.

"Child support is more than just a financial transaction; it's a commitment to a child's future," says Lisl Williams, FFSC's Director of Legal Services. "At FFSC, we see firsthand how empowering parents through employment transforms families and provides children with the resources they need to thrive. Our EDMP program is instrumental in helping parents understand their obligations and the profound impact their contributions have."

The comprehensive EDMP curriculum covers essential topics such as communication strategies for on-the-job success, critical job-readiness skills, and vital personal financial management. FFSC's dedicated Career Advisors work closely with participants to identify areas of career interest and chart pathways to in-demand jobs, including connecting them with resources for certifications that lead directly to job placement. Program activities include:

- Job skills assessments
- Resume development
- Mock interviews

- On-site career fairs
- Access to free business suits/attire for interviews
- Employment referrals and job placement assistance

“Every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential, and consistent child support is a fundamental building block for that,” states Cheri Tillis, CEO of Fathers & Families Support Center. “Our EDMP program isn’t just about finding a job; it’s about fostering a sense of purpose, responsibility, and the ability to contribute positively to their children’s lives and their communities.

Reginald Slaughter, an FFSC alumnus and now the Community Outreach Coordinator, powerfully illustrates the program’s impact. “From my own experience, I can tell you that fathers want to be there for their kids. Once they’re employed and understand how co-parenting relationships truly work, and the positive impact of their involvement, they are more than willing to pay their share of support. FFSC gave me the tools and the confidence to be that responsible father.”

FFSC remains committed to its mission of strengthening families by empowering parents. Through programs like the EDMP, the organization continues to make a significant difference in the lives of children and families throughout the community.

About Fathers & Families Support Center:

Celebrating 27 years, [Fathers & Families Support Center](#) is a leading, nationally recognized non-profit organization dedicated to supporting men (and women) on their journey to responsible parenthood, improving outcomes for children and strengthening families in the St. Louis bi-state region. Through comprehensive programs like its [Employment Development & Mentoring Program \(EDMP\)](#) FFSC provides job skills, employment readiness, career certification resources and job placement to help parents support their children.

Through its comprehensive programs and support services, **FFSC has impacted over 53,000 children who have more responsible, involved parents today. To date, FFSC has supported nearly 22,000 men who wanted to become more responsible, involved fathers with their children.**

[2024 Annual Report](#)

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