

Clark County Community Action Plan

2016 - 2021

Clark has become a leader among Ohio Counties in mobilization around responsible fatherhood promotion with engaged leadership in many sectors. This plan is designed to continue the momentum and to extend the effort by enlisting more service providers, and by increasing referrals to fatherhood programs. The plan endeavors to close father-specific, direct service program and resources gaps in order to meet the identified needs of local fathers as they seek to improve as committed and skilled, parents, partners, and providers for the sake of their children.

**To Promote
Healthy
Fathering**

5-YEAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Vision:

In 2021 Clark County is a place where service providers, community leaders, and citizens are working together to improve outcomes of children and to strengthen families by increasing the number of males engaged in healthy fathering practices.

Mission:

By 2021, significantly increase the number of children and youth in Clark County that are benefitting from having engaged, skilled, and financially stable fathers as they are becoming the best parents, partners and providers they can be.

Mission Strategies:

- Identify and Eliminate Gaps in Resources/Services/Programs
- Engage Providers and Collaborators to Meet Prioritized Needs
- Determine Desired Deliverables, Assign Responsible Parties, and Set Time Targets

5-YEAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Initial Identified Gap:

Gap 1 - There is no father-specific program to help fathers attain well-paying, stable employment with integrated parenting and relationships education, employability skills and job training, and long term mentoring.

Plan:

Create a Multi-Services/Integrated Father-Focused Family Stabilization Initiative

- Program: Fathering Institute at Clark State Community College
 - Healthy Fathering, Healthy Relationships, and Life Skills Classes
 - Employment Readiness Training
 - In-Demand Job Skills Training
 - 12 Months of Coaching

Providers/Collaborators: Urban Light Ministries, Clark State Community College, Employers

Start-Up Target Date: Winter 2015/16

5-YEAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Initial Identified Gap:

Gap 2 – There is a continuing need to financially sustain Clark County’s public awareness, education, and celebration efforts.

Plan: Launch a Campaign to Raise the Funds to Maintain and Improve Current Resources that Include:

- FatherFest Annual Community Celebration of Responsible Fatherhood and Resource Fair
- My Dad ROCKS Annual Art/Essay Contest
- Leadership Summits and Seminars
- Website
- Resource Kiosks
- Newsletter
- Dads Resources Guide

Collaborators: Family and Children First Council, Fatherhood Commission of Clark County, Board of Clark County Commissioners, Urban Light Ministries, Turner Foundation, Community Health Foundation, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, United HealthCare, others

Deadline: January 2016

5-YEAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Initial Identified Gap:

Gap 3 – There is a need for sustained funding of the Fatherhood Coordinator / Fatherhood Clark County Director

Plan: Establish the Coordinator/Director office as a permanent position for the ongoing work of:

- Insuring the carrying out of this Community Action Plan to Promote Healthy Fathering
- Increasing the number of referrals of fathers to direct service providers
- Maintaining the standardized referral reporting system
- Arranging recognition of outstanding referring agencies/staff
- Increasing sector leader engagement in promoting healthy fathering
- Increasing signees of the Community Fatherhood Policy
- Recruiting and retaining Fatherhood Clark County volunteers for the continuation and continuous improvement of:
 - FatherFest Annual Community Celebration of Responsible Fatherhood and Resource Fair
 - My Dad ROCKS Annual Art/Essay Contest
 - Workshops, Leadership Summits and Seminars
- Maintaining and improving the community's fatherhood resources, including:
 - Website
 - Resource Kiosks
 - Newsletter
 - Other

Providers/Collaborators: BOCCC, Fatherhood Commission of Clark County, CCDJFS, FCFC, ULM, Fatherhood Ohio, others

Deadline: January 2016

5-YEAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Initial Identified Gap:

Gap 4 – There is a need for father-engagement education and professional development for local agency staff so that those that work with families have father-inclusion continuously on the top of their minds.

Plan: Provide Staff Education and Professional Development

- In-Service Training for Management and Staff
 - School Districts
 - Hospital
 - Community Health Centers
 - Children Services
 - Child Support
 - Head Start
 - Help Me Grow
 - Other
- Organizational Father-Friendliness Surveys

Providers/Collaborators: Family and Children First Counsel, CCDJFS, ULM, FYI, Health District, Miami Valley Child Development Centers (Head Start), McKinley Hall, others

Start-up Target Date: Fall 2016

5-YEAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Initial Identified Gap:

Gap 5 – There is no father-specific programming for new fathers.

Plan:

Establish Educational and Empowerment Initiatives for New/Young Fathers

- Program: Boot Camp for New Dads
 - Boot Camp for New Dads® (aka Daddy Boot Camp®) is a unique father-to-father, community-based workshop that inspires and equips men of different economic levels, ages and cultures to become confidently engaged with their infants, support their mates and personally navigate their transformation into dads.

Providers: Urban Light Ministries, Family & Youth Initiatives, Pregnancy Resource Clinic; Miami Valley Child Development Centers (Head Start)

Start-up Target Date: Winter 2016/17

5-YEAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Initial Identified Gap:

Gap 6 – There is not enough male-specific teen programming in place in Clark County for premature fatherhood prevention to complement female-oriented teen programming.

Plan:

Expand the capacity of providers to offer programs at all Clark County Middle and High Schools

- Program: Wise Guys®
 - Wise Guys® is a male-oriented teen pregnancy prevention program. Initiated in 1990, it is an interactive, fun, and informative approach has proven effective in helping male adolescents make wiser and more responsible decisions.
- Program: Love Notes®
 - Love Notes® is a teen curriculum that aims to help young people make wise relationship and sexual choices—choices that will help them, rather than create barriers, for achieving their education, employment, relationship and family goals.

Providers/Collaborators: Springfield Christian Youth Ministries, Urban Light Ministries, Family & Youth Initiatives, City and County School Districts, other

Start-up Target Date: Fall 2017

5-YEAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Initial Identified Gap:

Gap 7 – There is no program focused on helping estranged fathers and mothers to develop healthy partnering skills and attitudes for cooperatively parenting their children.

Plan:

Establish Healthy Parenting Partner Relationship Programs, Classes, and Workshops

- Programs: Mother-Focused Father Empowerment and Support
 - Understanding Dad® Program
 - A unique program that helps mothers to improve the relationships they have with fathers, for the benefit of their children.
 - Mom as Gateway® Workshop
 - Helps to break down barriers between mothers and fathers by addressing what is known as Maternal Gatekeeping - when a mother's beliefs about a father, as well as her behaviors, hinder a father's involvement - and facilitate helpful discussions and efforts towards co-parenting.

Providers/Collaborators: Family & Youth Initiatives, Pregnancy Resource Clinic, Urban Light Ministries, Miami Valley Child Development Centers (Head Start), others

Start-up Target Date: Summer 2018

5-YEAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Initial Identified Gap:

Gap 8 – There is not enough legal support for low-income, noncustodial parents that are seeking to establish visitation/parenting time and custody of their children.

Plan:

Establish Programs, Workshops, and Resources

- Program: Legal Workshops for Noncustodial Parents
- Resource: Clark County Pro Se Legal Packet for Custody and Visitation
- Program: Volunteer Mediation

Providers/Collaborators: Family Court, Juvenile Court, Legal Aid Society, CCDJFS, others

Start-up Target Date: Winter 2018/19

5-YEAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Initial Identified Gap:

Gap 9 – Clark County lacks father-specific, developmental-stage resources for fathers of young children.

Plan: Provide Developmental Stage-Focused Resources for Dads

- Resource: Help Me Grow® Bundles
 - With contributions from Dr. Kyle Pruett and Dr. Yvette Warren, the Help Me Grow Bundle: A Dad's Guide to the Ages and Stages of Child Growth covers everything dads need to know about what to expect and not to expect in terms of child growth over the years. By reviewing the charts in these guides, Dad will learn about the physical, mental/emotional, and social changes his child will go through.
 - The First Year, Toddler & The Pre-School Years, The Elementary School Years
 - ❖ This information empowers fathers to be more involved, responsible parents.

Providers/Collaborators: Healthy Baby Healthy Mommy, Help Me Grow, Rocking Horse Community Health Center, Springfield Regional Medical Center, ULM, FYI, Miami Valley Child Development Centers (Head Start), New Carlisle Community Health Center, others

Start-up Target Date: Summer 2019

5-YEAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Initial Identified Gap:

Gap 10 – There is not enough focus on strengthening middle class families as a family fragmentation prevention measure.

Plan:

Establish Employer-Sponsored Workshops on Work and Career/Family Balance for Parents

Providers/Collaborators: Employers, SHRMA

Start-up Target Date: Winter 2020/21