



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance



NRFC State Profile: Indiana

August 2015

This profile describes state and federally funded programs and policies that aim to strengthen families. These programs and policies support parenting and father involvement, promote strong family relationships, enhance fathers' economic stability, and provide support during incarceration and reentry. The profile lists phone numbers and websites for the programs. This information was correct when the profile was written (in 2015) but may change over time.

Programs to Support Responsible Fatherhood and Strengthen Families

Responsible fatherhood programs focus on issues such as enhancing parenting and relationship skills, keeping fathers involved with their children, improving their economic stability, helping them pay child support, and generally helping to strengthen families.

The following state and federally funded programs are available in the state:

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Centerstone of Indiana	Fatherhood/Parenting	Centerstone was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in October 2015. The <i>New Pathways</i> program will provide parenting, relationships, and economic stability services for low income fathers.	Bartholomew, Brown, Lawrence, Monroe, Morgan, and Owen counties. <i>Contact info to be added when available</i>
Fathers and Family Center	Fatherhood/Parenting Healthy Relationships Economic Stability	The state funded Fathers and Family Center offers various fatherhood and healthy relationship programs. <i>Dad's Voice</i> is a program to assist fathers whose children are in the child welfare system. The program helps fathers navigate the child welfare system and learn to better communicate with the child's mother. In addition, the Center offers parenting classes, workforce development training, and educational services through the <i>Fatherhood Development Workshop</i> .	Serves the Indianapolis metropolitan area. Website (317) 713-0782

Take Time to Be a Dad Today

Toll-free: 877-4DAD411 (877-432-3411) | Fax: 703-934-3740 | info@fatherhood.gov | www.fatherhood.gov



[facebook.com/fatherhoodgov](https://www.facebook.com/fatherhoodgov)



[@fatherhoodgov](https://twitter.com/fatherhoodgov)



Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Indiana’s Department of Child Services (DCS)	Fatherhood/Parenting Healthy Relationships Economic Stability	The Indiana DCS offers the <i>Father Engagement Program</i> , which provides services for fathers whose children are in the child welfare system. Services include individual case management, educational sessions about DCS, and connections to community resources. The Department also provides <i>Healthy Families Indiana</i> , a home visitation program designed to promote healthy families through a variety of services including child development education, access to health care, and parent education.	Serves the entire state. <i>Father Engagement Program</i> Website <i>Healthy Families Indiana</i> Website (317) 234-5437
Indiana’s Department of Corrections	Incarceration/Reentry Economic Stability	Indiana’s Department of Corrections offers several programs that provide training for incarcerated fathers prior to their reentry.	Serves Correctional Facilities throughout the state. Website (317) 233-6984
Indiana’s Department of Workforce Development	Economic Stability	Indiana’s Department of Workforce Development offers employment services through WorkOne Centers located throughout the state. WorkOne services include assistance in finding a new job or career as well as access to job training.	Serves the entire state. Website (800) 891-6499
Job Corps	Economic Stability	<i>Job Corps</i> is a federally funded job training program to help low-income men and women ages 16 to 24 with educational and career goals.	Job Corps centers are located in Edinburgh and Indianapolis. Website Edinburgh: (812) 314-6000



NRFC State Profile

Indiana



Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
			Indianapolis: (317) 524-6788

Policies to Promote Responsible Fatherhood

Paternal Establishment

Establishing paternity gives a child born outside of marriage the same legal rights and privileges as a child born to married parents. Children gain access to family medical history and rights to inheritance, fathers' medical and life insurance benefits, social security and veterans' benefits, and child support. In addition, Native American children gain tribal enrollment rights.

In Indiana, unmarried fathers can establish paternity through a paternity affidavit or court order. A paternity affidavit is a legal document that allows a man and a woman to declare that the man is the biological father of the child. An affidavit can be completed at the hospital within 72 hours of the child's birth or at a local health department before the child is 18 years old. To establish paternity using a court order, a parent must file an action in an Indiana court, after which both parties are given a hearing date. At the hearing, the parties may agree on the paternity without genetic testing, request genetic testing, or the court may hear evidence and make a decision regarding the child's paternity.ⁱ

Child Custody

If unmarried or divorced parents cannot reach agreement concerning child custody or visitation, a legal order can be made through the court system. Either parent may be granted custody of the child, or both may share equally in physical custody and/or decision-making responsibilities. There is no legal connection between payment or non-payment of child support and rights to visitation.

In Indiana, a judge decides who will be the primary caretaker of a child based on the child's best interest. "Parenting time," or visitation, is the time that parents without physical custody spend with their children. Parents who do not have physical custody of their child are entitled to reasonable parenting time with the child, unless the parent would endanger the child's physical or emotional health.

Child Support

The Federal Child Support Enforcement Program was established in 1975 as Title IV-D of the Social Security Act to locate noncustodial parents, establish paternity and establish and enforce child support orders. General services available in all states and territories include voluntary in-hospital paternity acknowledgement, genetic testing, explanation of state guidelines for determining child support orders, and review of child support orders at least every three years at the request of either parent. State child support offices are responsible for collection and distribution of child support payments and can modify orders when appropriate. If a parent is behind in their payments, the office may use enforcement tools such as license revocation (including drivers, professional, recreational or occupational licenses), seizure of assets, property liens, passport denial, and federal and state tax refund offsets.ⁱⁱ

In Indiana, the Child Support Bureau of Indiana has entered into cooperative agreements with county prosecutors in every Indiana county to provide child support enforcement. The amount that a noncustodial parent pays in child support depends on the parent's income. Visit the [website](#) or call (317) 234-5437 for more information about how to make child support payments or for general information for custodial and noncustodial parents.

The Family and Medical Leave Act

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) protects employees who have worked with the same organization for at least twelve months and worked at least 1,250 hours within the past year. It contains provisions for both fathers and mothers to take time off after the birth or adoption of a child, or during a serious illness, without fear of losing their jobs. Employees in companies with 50 or more employees are entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave, over a one-year period, to care for a new child, recuperate from a serious illness, care for a seriously ill family member, or handle issues

arising from a family member's call to active military duty. The FMLA also gives employees the right to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a family member who is seriously injured or becomes ill while on active military duty.ⁱⁱⁱ

In Indiana, in addition to leave granted through the federal FMLA, employers must provide up to 10 days of unpaid leave for employees who want to visit a family member (spouse, parent, guardian, grandparent, brother, sister, or adoptive siblings) serving in the military in the 30 days before active duty begins, during military leave, or 30 days following termination of active duty orders. Employees are eligible if they have worked for at least 12 months and at least 1,500 hours.

Head Start

Head Start is a federally funded school readiness program for young children from low-income families. The program, currently delivered by about 1,700 local organizations – public and private, non-profit and for-profit – provides preschoolers with comprehensive services, such as education and health screenings, with the goal of building their skills across five school readiness domains: language and literacy, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical development and health, and social and emotional development. Head Start encourages the role of parents (both mothers and fathers) as their child's first and most important teachers. Programs build relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community. Early Head Start, also managed by the federal Office of Head Start, is directed toward children up to the age of three and their parents. While the program is federally funded and managed, local agencies make decisions regarding service delivery based on the specific needs of their communities; for example, some may opt to include home-based services for families in their programs. Most states have multiple Head Start programs providing services for fathers.

To find information on Head Start programs in Indiana, go to:

<http://www.indianaheadstart.org/bbadmin/editors/fckeditor/editor/filemanager/browser/default/connectors.aspx/Home.aspx>

Policies to Promote Economic Stability

Child Care Assistance

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) works with states to provide support for children and their low-income families. Subsidized child care services are available to eligible families through certificates (vouchers), grants, or contracts with providers. Fathers and mothers may select a child care provider that satisfies applicable state and local requirements, including basic health and safety requirements.^{iv}

In Indiana, the CCDF Program is administered through the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) in the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning.^v

Rental Assistance

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides rental assistance to low-income families and individuals through a number of methods. HUD subsidizes privately owned apartments, allowing low-income tenants to rent them at reduced rates. In the Public Housing program, local housing agencies manage rental housing for low-income tenants, while HUD provides professional and technical assistance in their planning, development, and management. The Housing Choice Voucher Program, better known as Section 8, provides eligible families and individuals with vouchers that they can use to pay for all or part of the rent at housing units of their choice. Generally, eligibility for the HUD rental assistance programs is based on annual gross income, assets, family size, and other considerations such as elderly or disabled status. Local housing agencies generally set the fixed eligibility rules for their regions, determine assistance amounts, and manage waiting lists for assistance.^{vi}

For information on rental assistance in Indiana, such as Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, visit Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's [website](#) or call (317) 232-7777.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp program, provides low-income individuals (both men and women) and families with funds delivered in an electronic benefit transfer card, or EBT card that can be used to purchase food. SNAP is administered within the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services and is federally funded, but applications, delivery, and outreach are handled at the state or local level. In general, individuals and households are eligible to receive SNAP if they have less than \$2,250 in countable resources and earn less than 130 percent of the poverty line in gross monthly income. However, characteristics of recipients (for example, age or disabled status) can affect eligibility requirements, and states have flexibility in determining eligibility, particularly with regard to what is considered a countable resource. In 2014, the average monthly SNAP benefit per individual was \$125.35.^{vii}

In Indiana, beginning July 2015, those receiving SNAP benefits between the ages of 18 and 49 who are not disabled and do not have children or other dependents will have their benefits limited to three months in a 36 month period unless they are working an average of 20 hours per week, participating in the approved employment and training program a minimum of 20 hours a week, or a combination of both. For this transition to mandatory work requirements, the Indiana Manpower and Comprehensive Training (IMPACT) program provides services for SNAP recipients to achieve economic self-sufficiency.^{viii}

IMPACT is a state-funded service available for adults receiving SNAP or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The program includes educational activities, case management, job-search assistance, job readiness training, work experience, and support services. If the participant is unemployed, they work with a case worker to complete a Self-Sufficiency Plan that outlines his or her individualized steps for employment.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program grants federal funds to states for developing and implementing their own welfare programs that provide assistance and work opportunities to needy families.

In Indiana, adults who meet both financial and non-financial guidelines and who have a dependent child under the age of 18 are eligible for TANF. Applicants for TANF must also be documented residents of the United States. As a condition of eligibility for TANF, adult applicants deemed mandatory for IMPACT are required to attend Applicant Job Search Orientation and complete 20 days of Applicant Job Search activities.^{ix}



References

- ⁱ For more information on Indiana's Paternity Establishment laws, see <http://www.in.gov/dcs/2482.htm>.
- ⁱⁱ For more information on the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, see www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css.
- ⁱⁱⁱ For more information on the Family and Medical Leave Act, see <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28.pdf>.
- ^{iv} For more information on the Child Care and Development Fund, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/about/what-we-do>.
- ^v For more information on Indiana's Child Care and Development Fund, see <http://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/3900.htm>.
- ^{vi} For more information on Rental Assistance, see http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance.
- ^{vii} For more information on SNAP and to find services in your state, see <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply>.
- ^{viii} For more information on Indiana's SNAP, see <http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/4929.htm>.
- ^{ix} For more information on Indiana's TANF, see <http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/2684.htm>.