



NRFC State Profile: Hawaii October 2016

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 2016) 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
Child and Family Service	Fatherhood/Parenting Domestic Violence	Child and Family Service, a federal and state funded organization, provides various services to support and strengthen families, including: 1) <i>Healthy Families</i> , a support program for new and expectant parents; 2) <i>Parent Line</i> , a free telephone line with support and information for parents and other caregivers; 3) emergency shelters for victims of domestic violence; and 4) supportive services for domestic violence victims who are recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF).	Healthy Families Website (808) 681-1555 The Parent Line Website (800) 816-1222 (toll free) O'ahu residents: (808) 526-1222 Website for domestic abuse hotlines and shelters Website for victim support services

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Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Family Support Hawaii	Fatherhood/Parenting Healthy Relationships	Family Support Hawaii's <i>Hawaii Fatherhood Initiative</i> offers home visits and group activities around parenting skills, conflict resolution, stress management, and child development. The organization receives state funding.	Program activities are located on the island of Hawaii. (808) 326-7778 Fatherhood Initiative Website (808) 334-4154
Hawaii Department of Human Services-Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division	Economic Stability	The Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division offers the <i>First-To-Work Program (FTW)</i> which provides case management, employment, and support services for work eligible individuals of TANF (Temporary Assistance For Needy Families) households.	Serves the entire state. First-To-Work Program Website (808) 586-4993
Hawaii Workforce Development Division	Economic Stability	Hawaii Workforce Development Division has a network of federally funded One-Stop Career Centers that offer employment services and training to low-income and unemployed individuals.	One-Stop Career Centers provide services throughout the state. See website for site phone numbers.
Institute for Family Enrichment	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability	The Institute For Family Enrichment, a state-funded program, offers various services for Hawaii's parents and families, including: 1) <i>Nurturing the Families of Hawaii</i> , a 12-week program that uses the <i>Nurturing Parents</i> curriculum with group sessions on parenting skills, child development, and financial management; and 2) <i>Keiki Play Morning</i> a program to develop positive parenting through playgroups and parenting classes.	Serves the entire state. Website (808) 596-8433
Job Corps	Economic Stability	<i>Job Corps</i> is a federal job training program for low-income young men and women to help with educational and career goals.	Serves the entire state. Website Waimanalo: (808) 259-6070 Maui: (808) 579-8450

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Keiki O Ka Aina Preschool, Inc.	Healthy Relationships Incarceration/Reentry	Keiki O Ka Aina Preschool, Inc. is a federally funded organization that offers various family strengthening programs including <i>Supporting Families Affected by Incarceration (SFAI)</i> , which provides opportunities for children, caregivers, and incarcerated parents to interact through mentoring, parenting classes, and parent-child programs designed to strengthen families and help children thrive.	Serves the entire state. Website (808) 843-2502
Maui Economic Opportunity	Economic Stability	Maui Economic Opportunity is a federally funded organization that offers pre-employment career training, and employment and placement assistance.	Maui, Moloka'i, and Lanai. Website (808) 249-2990
Maui Family Support Services	Preventing Unwanted/ Early Fatherhood Fatherhood/Parenting	Maui Family Support Services is a federally funded organization that offers parenting programs for male and female teens, prenatal support, after-school support for teenage fathers and fathers-to-be, and <i>Teen Voices</i> , a free pregnancy prevention program.	Maui, Moloka'i, and Lanai. Website (808) 242-0900
Parents and Children Together (PACT)	Domestic Violence Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability	Parents and Children Together (PACT) is a state and federally funded organization that offers statewide programs in the areas of early childhood education, domestic violence prevention and treatment, child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment, positive youth development, community and economic development, and mental health support.	Serves the entire state. Website (808) 847-3285
United States Navy and Air Force – Military and Family Support Center	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability	The Military and Family Support Center is a joint Air Force and Navy funded program for active duty military and their families on Oahu. Programs and services include <i>Boot Camp for New Dads</i> , new parent support, career assistance, resiliency training, financial management, and life skills.	Oahu. Website (808) 474-1999

Policies to Promote Responsible Fatherhood

Paternity 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.

Hawaii has an in-hospital paternity acknowledgment program. When paternity is uncontested, both parents sign the Voluntary Establishment of Paternity by Parents form. When paternity is contested, parents must work with the court system, and may be required to undergo genetic testing.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 Hawaii, during a child custody dispute, the court may award custody of the child to one parent or both — or, if the court finds that it is not in the best interest of the child to award custody of the child to the mother or father, the court can award custody to any other stable adult. Hawaii law does not express a preference for either parent in deciding child custody. Instead, the court must determine what will be in the best interest of the child. Hawaii law provides general guidelines to the court and gives judges a great deal of discretion in determining the best interest of the child. Unlike many other states, Hawaii does not outline specific factors that are to be considered by the court. In practice, the standard requires that the court consider virtually any factor that could affect the child’s health and well-being. Some common factors that courts consider include: the relationship between each parent and the child, any history of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse perpetrated by either parent, the needs of the child, and any history of neglect by either parent.

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 the 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

The Hawaii Child Support Enforcement Agency is responsible for child support in the state. The Agency aims to promote children’s well-being by setting up, reviewing, and changing child-support obligations and also collecting payments. The [website](#) for the Hawaii Child Support Enforcement Agency provides information on paying and receiving child support. The phone number is (888) 317-9081.

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 12 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 addition to the benefits allowed by the federal FMLA, Hawaii has the Hawaii Family Leave Law (HFLL). The law covers types of leave similar to FMLA (except it does not apply to employees’ own health condition or foster care); it additionally includes leave to care for an employee’s parent-in-law and grandparent or grandparent-in-law and an employee’s reciprocal beneficiary. The law applies to an employer with one hundred or more employees for each

working day during each of twenty or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding calendar year. An employee is a person who performs services for at least six consecutive months (unlike FMLA which is 12 months) for wages under any contract of hire. Unlike the federal FMLA, there is no requirement in the HFLL that an employee work a minimum number of hours within the six-month period. The law specifies that the use of accrued and available sick leave is “for family leave purposes,” which includes the birth or adoption of a child. Employees may also take family leave to care for a child of any age, not just a minor.^{iv}

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 about Head Start Programs in Hawaii, go to: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/directories>.

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.^v

The Child Care Connection Hawaii (CCCH) subsidy program helps low-income families to sustain their employment, educational efforts, and job training by paying a subsidy for their children who are in the care of Department of Human Services-approved child care providers. Unless child care is required for protective purposes, families must meet income and activity requirements to qualify for this subsidy program.^{vi}

The Preschool Open Doors (POD) program is a subsidy program that provides services statewide to families sending their children to a licensed preschool during the school year prior to kindergarten entry. The goal of POD is to promote school readiness for children, and the program focuses on meeting the needs of the child. Parents are not required to have an eligible activity, unlike the CCCH Subsidy program, but they must meet income and other eligibility requirements. For POD, there is a time-limited application period established and published each year.^{vii}

Rental Supplement Program

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.^{viii}

In Hawaii, the Rent Supplement Program helps eligible families pay for part of their monthly rent. Families must pay at least 30 percent of their adjusted family income for rent. The difference between the family's contribution to rent payment and the total monthly rent, which can be up to a maximum of \$160.00 per month, is paid directly to the owner by Hawaii Public Housing Authority.^{ix}

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 many states, individuals over the age of 18 and under the age of 50 are limited to three months of SNAP benefits every three years unless they are working or in a work or training program 20 hours a week. Some states have waivers to this rule for all or part of the state – for detailed state eligibility requirements, consult the [state SNAP agency](#).

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 addition to TANF, Hawaii also has Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF). Family participation in TANF or TAONF depends on the household composition. If all family members are U.S. citizens, the family is eligible for federally funded welfare under TANF. Families that include at least one non-citizen are eligible for state-funded welfare under TAONF.^x

Other Helpful Resources

Commission on Fatherhood

The State of Hawaii has established the Commission on Fatherhood to promote responsible fatherhood and relationships. Information about the Commission, including links to available programs and resources, is available at:

<http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/fatherhood/>.

References

- ⁱ For more information on paternity establishment in Hawaii, see <http://ag.hawaii.gov/csea/files/2013/01/Paternity-Brochure.pdf>.
- ⁱⁱ For more information on the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, see www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse.
- 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 Hawaii Family Leave Law, see <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wsd/hawaii-family-leave/>.
- ^v For more information on the Child Care and Development Fund, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/about/what-we-do>.
- ^{vi} For more information on Child Care Connection Hawaii, see <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/child-care-program/ccch-subsidies/>.
- ^{vii} For more information on the Preschool Open Doors program, see <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/child-care-program/ccch-subsidies/>.
- ^{viii} For more information on Rental Assistance, see http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance
- ^{ix} For more information about the Rent Supplement Program, see <http://www.hpha.hawaii.gov/faqs/publichousing.html>
- ^x For more information on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families, see <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/tanf/>.