



NRFC State Profile: Ohio June 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
Action for Children	Fatherhood/Parenting	The state funded Action for Children offers several parenting courses to help parents use positive communication skills with their children and create healthy, mutually respectful family environments. Classes include <i>The Art of Positive Parenting (TAPP)</i> , <i>TAPP Express</i> , <i>Father Factor</i> , and <i>Parents Who Parent Separately</i> .	Central Ohio. Website of locations and phone numbers (614) 224-0222
Alvis House	Fatherhood/Parenting Incarceration/Reentry	Alvis House provides state funded programs to help previously incarcerated fathers strengthen family relationships, improve employment opportunities and facilitate family self-sufficiency. Services include case management, employment readiness, placement and retention, life skills education and mentoring, and referrals.	Columbus, Chillicothe, Dayton, Lima, and Toledo. Website (614) 252-8402
Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CAA)	Fatherhood/Parenting	CAA implements two state funded programs under its Responsible Fatherhood Initiative: <i>Involved Males and Fathers</i> and <i>Directions for Dads</i> . Both programs help fathers build stronger relationships with their children and include bonding opportunities such as museum outings, fishing trips, and attending	Hamilton County and Website (513) 569-1840

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Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
		sporting events. <i>Involved Males and Fathers</i> targets fathers of Head Start-enrolled children. <i>Directions for Dads</i> is a ten-week parenting class that improves communication, child support, employment, and health.	
Columbus Urban League	Fatherhood/Parenting Reentry	The state-funded Columbus Urban League provides the <i>Father 2 Father Program</i> as part of its African American Male Initiative. Services are available to assist fathers with parenting skills, parental and visitation rights, child support management, and parent-child engagement. The initiative also provides <i>Choose 2 Change</i> , a program to support ex-offenders as they reintegrate back into the community. The program provides case management, advocacy, referrals and recommendations, child support and custody assistance, and assistance with driving privileges.	Columbus. Website (614) 257-6300
Job Corps	Economic Stability	Job Corps is a federally funded job training program to help low-income men and women ages 16 to 24 with educational and career goals.	There are three Job Corps centers in Ohio. They are located in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Dayton. Website with phone numbers
Marriage Resource Center of Miami Valley	Healthy Relationships	The Marriage Resource Center of Miami Valley uses state and federal funds to provide healthy relationship education services for couples, individuals, and youth.	Champaign, Clark, and Greene counties. Website (937) 324-3604
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability Healthy Relationships Domestic Violence	ODJFS is a federally funded agency that provides social and financial services for low-income Ohioans. Programs include: The <i>Ohio Fatherhood Commission</i> , a statewide initiative that helps fathers develop their parenting skills, and the <i>Ohio Children's Trust Fund</i> , which works to prevent child abuse through programs that strengthen communities.	Serves the entire state. Website of phone numbers and services.
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC)	Fatherhood/Parenting Incarceration/Reentry	The Ohio DRC offers <i>Citizen Circles</i> , a program that helps offenders and their families develop relationships with members of the community and develop a	Serves the entire state. Website

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
		plan to help the offender become accepted as a productive citizen and member of the community.	(614) 752-1159
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Workforce Development (OWD)	Economic Stability	OWD assists job seekers through <i>Ohio Means Jobs</i> , which provides employment services through 20 jobs centers and an online job matching system.	Serves the entire state. Website Website with job center locations 1 (888) 296-7541
The Centers for Families and Children	Fatherhood/Parenting Healthy Relationships	The Centers for Families and Children offers the state funded <i>Fathers and Families Together</i> program, which provides workshops for fathers on a variety of topics, including: parenting skills, financial literacy, nutrition, legal education, navigating and accessing community resources, and healthy relationships.	Cleveland. Website (216) 325-9124
The RIDGE Project, Inc.	Fatherhood/Parenting Incarceration/Reentry Healthy Relationships	The RIDGE Project was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 to work with incarcerated fathers to prepare them for reentry. The <i>Keeping Families And Inmates Together In Harmony (FAITH)</i> program offers intensive character development to help fathers overcome obstacles related to incarceration and reentry. <i>TYRO Dads</i> teaches men what it means to be responsible fathers. Ridge also offers couples communication classes and workforce development programs.	Dayton, Canton, and McClure. Website (419) 278-0092
Urban Light Ministries (ULM)	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability	ULM receives state funding to run the <i>Fatherhood Institute</i> , a 3-week parenting class that enhances relationships between fathers and children through training in parenting skills, communication, behavior management, and child development. The program also helps fathers with young children reach economic stability.	Springfield. Website (937) 328-0122
WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc.	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability	WSOS's Fatherhood Center for Hope is a state and federally funded program that helps fathers develop healthy and lasting relationships and provide stable financial support for their children. Services include parenting skills, economic stability workshops, job development services, financial education training, life skills training, and domestic violence education.	Lucas County. Website (419) 334-8911

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.

Ohio women who are not married at the time of their child's birth, or not married within 300 days from the date of conception, can request an Acknowledgment of Paternity Affidavit. Local Child Support Enforcement Agencies (CSEA) have the authority to name the biological father on the birth certificate.ⁱ In cases when an individual refuses to consent to genetic testing, paternity may also be established by filing a "parentage" action in juvenile court, by requesting that a county CSEA require DNA testing to establish paternity.ⁱⁱ

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 Ohio, custody is determined based on the best interests of the child. To determine whether shared parenting is in the best interests of the child, the court considers factors such as the parents' ability to cooperate and make joint parenting decisions; any history of, or potential for, child abuse or other domestic violence; and the proximity of the parents to each other.ⁱⁱⁱ Each county in Ohio decides a "standard parenting time schedule," which is used by courts to determine visitation schedules.^{iv}

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.^v

To obtain a child support order in Ohio, a child's parent or other guardian can request assistance from a local Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA). The CSEA or a court will determine the child support order. Go to the [website](#) or call (800) 686-1556 for more information.

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.^{vi}

In addition to the benefits allowed by the federal FMLA, Ohio requires that all public sector employers offer up to six weeks of unpaid leave for a birth or adoption. Ohio also offers up to four weeks of partial wage replacement for public sector employees.^{vii}

Ohio employees are also entitled to Ohio Military Family Leave. This law requires that employers with at least 50 employees to give up to 10 days or 80 hours of unpaid leave to eligible employees who are the parent, spouse, or legal custodian of a member of the armed forces who is called to active duty for more than 30 days or who is injured, wounded, or hospitalized on active service.^{viii}

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 Ohio, go to this [website](#).

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.^{ix}

To apply for child care assistance, residents of Ohio may contact the Job and Family Services. In order to get assistance, families must choose a licensed child care center, school-age program, head start, or type B home provider or a certified in-home aide provider. Families receiving child care assistance must pay co-payments or part of child-care costs, the amount of which is based on income, family size, and number of children. Families may be eligible for help with child care costs.^x

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.^{xi}

Ohio has no additional provisions for rental assistance.

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](#).^{xii}

Ohio has no additional provisions for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

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.

Ohio has no additional state provisions for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Other Helpful Resources

Healthy Fathering Collaborative of Greater Cleveland

The Healthy Fathering Collaborative is a network of public and private agencies that provide a variety of services for fathers as detailed on their [website](#).

Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families

The Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families provides networking, training, resources, research, public policy updates, and other supports for father and family-serving practitioners across the State of Ohio. The Network's [website](#) includes information on services for fathers across the state.

References

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- ⁱ To learn more about paternity establishment in Ohio, see <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/en/vitalstatistics/legalinfo/pataffid.aspx>.
- ⁱⁱ To learn more about genetic testing in Ohio, see http://jfs.ohio.gov/Ocs/PaternityEstablishment_Overview.stm.
- ⁱⁱⁱ To learn more about child custody in Ohio, see http://jfs.ohio.gov/Ocs/OCSServices_Overview.htm and <https://www.ohioabar.org/ForPublic/Resources/LawYouCanUse/Pages/LawYouCanUse-337.aspx>.
- ^{iv} To learn more about parenting time in Ohio, see and http://www.ohiolegalservices.org/public/legal_problem/family-law/child-custody/qandact_view.
- ^v For more information on the federal office of Child Support Enforcement see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css>.
- ^{vi} For more information on the Family and Medical leave Act see <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28.pdf>
- ^{vii} To learn more about Ohio's FMLA laws, see http://das.ohio.gov/Portals/0/DASDivisions/DirectorsOffice/pdf/policies/humanresources/FMLA_Policy.pdf.
- ^{viii} For more information on Ohio Military Family Leave, see <http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/ohio-family-medical-leave.html>.
- ^{ix} For more information on the Child Care and Development Fund, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/about/what-we-do>.
- ^x For more information on child care assistance in Ohio, see <http://jfs.ohio.gov/CDC/Page4.stm>.
- ^{xi} For more information on Rental Assistance, see http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance.
- ^{xii} For more information on SNAP and to find services in your state, see <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply>.