



## NRFC State Profile: Oregon May 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   |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)</b> | Healthy Relationships<br>Fatherhood/Parenting<br>Economic Stability | The state and federally funded IRCO delivers several programs to help immigrants and refugees become self-sufficient. Most programs are run by multilingual and multicultural staff. Services include parenting and relationship skills, home visiting, and employment and training programs.   | Serves refugees and immigrants in Oregon. Classes are held in Portland.<br><br><a href="#">Website</a><br><br>503-234-1541 |
| <b>Job Corps</b>   | Economic Stability  | Job Corps is a federal job training program to help low-income young men and women ages 16 to 24 with educational and career goals.   | There are six Job Corps Centers in Oregon.<br><a href="#">Website</a> with locations and phone numbers.                    |
| <b>MercyCorps Northwest</b>                                | Reentry<br>Economic Stability                                       | The state and federally funded MercyCorps Northwest Reentry Transition Center helps formerly incarcerated individuals transition back into their communities. Services help with immediate needs (such as access to phone and internet, meals and clothing, and housing referrals) and long-term needs (such as employment assistance, vocational training, counseling, obtaining a driver's license, family reconciliation, healthcare, and alcohol and drug treatment). | Portland.<br><br><a href="#">Website</a><br><br>(971) 255-0547 x206  |

Take Time to Be a Dad Today

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

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| Organization  | Services Provided  | Description   | Service Area and Contact Information   |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)</b> | Fatherhood/Parenting                                     | The federally funded <i>Parent Involvement</i> program provides parent support and helps families improve communication skills using the <i>Parents Helping Parents</i> curriculum. NAYA also offer <i>Positive Indian Parenting</i> , an eight-week class of practical and culturally specific material that applies traditional Native American values to modern skills in parenting.   | Serves Native Americans in Portland.<br><br><a href="#">Website</a><br><br>(503) 288-8177 x240 |
| <b>Oregon Sexual Assault Taskforce (SATF)</b>         | Domestic Violence  | SATF is a statewide, state funded taskforce that promotes sexual assault prevention, victim advocacy, medical care, and criminal prosecution and treatment for sex offenders. Programs include a <i>Sexual Assault Training Institute (SATI)</i> , which provides knowledge and sensitivity training for professionals such as victim advocates, law enforcement, nurses, prosecutors, and others; and <i>Oregon Men Against Violence (OMAV)</i> , a network of local and campus organizations that engage men and boys to prevent and respond to men’s use of violence.  | Serves the entire state.<br><br><a href="#">Website</a><br><br>(503) 990-6541                  |
| <b>Pathfinders of Oregon</b>                          | Fatherhood/Parenting<br>Healthy Relationships<br>Reentry | Pathfinders of Oregon offers several state funded classes for criminal justice involved-parents and at-risk youth. Pathfinder’s Center for Family Success provides the following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Parenting Inside Out</i> helps justice-involved parents reintegrate successfully with their families and parent their children in healthy ways.</li> <li>• <i>Mentoring Inside Out</i> works with the whole family to help children of justice-involved parents stay in school.</li> <li>• <i>Caring Dads</i>, a 17-session class that helps fathers improve relationships with their children and end controlling, abusive, and neglectful behavior.</li> </ul> Pathfinders also offers Home Visiting and Reentry services and the <i>Healthy Relationships: Successful Families</i> program, which addresses family violence prevention. | Portland.<br><br><a href="#">Website</a><br><br>(503) 286-0600                                 |

| Organization                         | Services Provided                           | Description  | Service Area and Contact Information   |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Volunteers of America, Oregon</b> | Incarceration/Reentry<br>Economic Stability | Volunteers of America, Oregon runs <i>Portland Partners Reentry Initiative (PPRI)</i> , a state-funded transition program that helps incarcerated adults transition back into the community. Participants receive employment skills training during their incarceration. Upon release, they may choose to work with mentors in the community.  | Serves incarcerated adults in Portland.<br><br><a href="#">Website</a><br><br>(503) 235-8655   |
| <b>WorkSource Oregon</b>             | Economic Stability                          | WorkSource Oregon provides job search assistance, online resources, and information about unemployment insurance for unemployed workers, veterans, dislocated workers, and other residents of Oregon.  | Serves the entire state.<br><br><a href="#">List</a> of centers and phone numbers by location. |
| <b>Youth Contact</b>                 | Fatherhood/Parenting                        | The state funded Youth Contact offers three parent education classes:<br>1) <i>Strengthening Families</i> , a 14-week family skills training program for parents and their children. One course works with parents and children ages 6-11; another with parents and children ages 10-14.<br>2) <i>The Incredible Years</i> , a 12-week program that teaches parenting methods for reducing children’s aggression and behavior problems.<br>3) <i>Nicasa</i> , a program that establishes supportive networks among parents of children ages 0-18 and helps them improve relationships with their children. | Washington County.<br><br><a href="#">Website</a><br><br>(503) 844-1688                        |

## 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.

**Oregon’s Child Support Program assists parents with paternity cases. Unmarried parents can establish paternity either by submitting paperwork, or through a court or administrative legal process. If the mother and father agree that the child is his, they can sign a “Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity” form. If either parent would like to establish paternity for the child, he or she can fill out an “Affidavit in Support of Establishing Paternity” form with or without the other parent’s voluntary acknowledgment. The Child Support Program will also assist with genetic testing if an alleged father does not believe he is the biological parent. If the father does not deny that he is the child’s father within 30 days of the affidavit, the order will be finalized 34 days after it was served.<sup>i</sup>**

## 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 Oregon, parents can have either joint or sole custody. Joint custody is when parents share the decision-making about a child. It does not refer to the amount of time the child spends with or lives with either parent. Sole custody is when the custodial parent makes all major decisions regarding the child. Usually a custodial parent has a majority of the parenting time with a child. When custody is established, the court will usually also decide on the amount of parenting time (commonly referred to as visitation) each parent will have with the child.**

**When parents cannot agree on custody, the court will make a decision based on the following factors: emotional ties between the child and other family members, the parent's attitudes and interests towards the child, the willingness/ability of each parent to encourage a continuing relationship between the other parent and the child, the desirability of continuing an existing relationship, and the presence or absence of abuse of one parent by the other. The court generally gives preference towards the primary caregiver (the parent who attends to the child's basic needs on a daily basis, and who is more closely bonded to the child). The court will consider the conduct, marital status, income, social environment or lifestyle of a parent only if it is shown that those factors are causing or may cause emotional or physical damage to the child.<sup>ii</sup>**

## 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.<sup>iii</sup>

**The Oregon Child Support Program assists parents with paternity establishment, establishing or modifying a child support order, child support enforcement, locating a parent, and medical support. Oregon has several local offices throughout the state. Go to the [website](#) or call (800) 850-0228 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 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.<sup>iv</sup>

**The Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA) allows leave for employees in companies with 25 or more employees under the following circumstances: for the birth, adoption, or foster placement of a child; to care for the serious health condition of a family member or oneself; pregnancy disability; to care for a sick child who requires home care; and to mourn the death of a family member. Oregon Military Family Leave allows 14 days of unpaid leave for employees with a spouse or same-gender domestic partner who is called to or on leave from active military duty.<sup>v</sup>**

## 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 Oregon, 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.<sup>vi</sup>

**Oregon’s Child Care Assistance program is called Employment Related Day Care (ERDC). The program subsidizes child care costs for eligible parents based on the family’s income, size, and the amount the child care provider charges. To qualify, 1) parents must be Oregon residents; 2) single parents must be employed -- in two-parent families, both parents must be working (unless unable to care for children due to a medical condition); 3) family income must be below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level; 4) children must be under 12 (or under 12-17 in special circumstances) and U.S. citizens or qualifying non-citizens; and 5) parents must need child care services to remain employed (in the case of two-parent families, this means that the parents must have work hours overlap). Parents receiving ERDC must use a child care provider that meets DHS requirements.<sup>vii</sup>**

### 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.<sup>viii</sup>

**Oregon has no additional state 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](#).<sup>ix</sup>

**In Oregon, SNAP benefits are distributed through the state’s Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system, which allows people to access their benefits by using an “Oregon Trail Card” at the grocery store point of sale machines. This card is also used to administer TANF cash benefits. Individuals can apply for SNAP online or through DHS and AAA offices across the state.<sup>x</sup>**

### 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.

**Low-income Oregonians can apply for TANF online or at their local DHS Self-Sufficiency office. After applying for TANF, the DHS will enroll the family into a “pre-TANF” program. During this time, a DHS caseworker will determine eligibility and open TANF benefits as soon as possible. The DHS will also help individuals with employment assessments, determine services which will support employment and reduce risks to family stability, and develop a case plan to promote economic independence and family stability. A family may be in the Pre-TANF program for as little as one day or up to 45 days, depending on the family’s situation. During this time, DHS may be able to help with transportation or childcare related to the job search. DHS may also help pay for personal incidental items such as uniforms, hygiene items, work boots, and diapers.<sup>xi</sup>**

**Most adults receiving TANF are required to participate in Oregon’s Jobs Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) program. The program offers assistance with job search, high school and GED completion, vocational and job training, life skills, and family stability services.<sup>xii</sup>**

## Other Helpful Resources

### Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV)

OCADSV is a statewide coalition of shelters and services for victims of domestic and sexual violence. Services vary by county and include a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter and transitional housing, support groups, counseling/mental health therapy, legal advocacy, children/youth programs, and community education and prevention. The [website](#) includes additional online resources and a list of services by county.



## References

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- <sup>i</sup> For more information on Paternity Establishment in Oregon, see <http://www.oregonchildsupport.gov/services/paternity.shtml>.
- <sup>ii</sup> For more information on Child Custody in Oregon, see [https://www.osbar.org/public/legalinfo/1133\\_ChildCustody.htm](https://www.osbar.org/public/legalinfo/1133_ChildCustody.htm).
- <sup>iii</sup> For more information on the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, see [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css).
- <sup>iv</sup> For more information on the Family and Medical leave Act, see <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28.pdf>.
- <sup>v</sup> For more information on the OFLA and OMFLA, see [http://www.oregon.gov/BOLI/TA/pages/t\\_faq\\_oregon\\_family\\_leave\\_act\\_01-2011.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/BOLI/TA/pages/t_faq_oregon_family_leave_act_01-2011.aspx).
- <sup>vi</sup> For more information on the Child Care and Development Fund, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/about/what-we-do>.
- <sup>vii</sup> For more information on ERDC, see <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/assistance/CHILD-CARE/Pages/parents.aspx>.
- <sup>viii</sup> For more information on Rental Assistance, see [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental\\_assistance](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance).
- <sup>ix</sup> For more information on SNAP and to find services in your state, see <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply>.
- <sup>x</sup> For more information on SNAP in Oregon, see <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ASSISTANCE/FOOD-BENEFITS/Pages/index.aspx>.
- <sup>xi</sup> For more information on TANF in Oregon, see <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ASSISTANCE/CASH/Pages/index.aspx>.
- <sup>xii</sup> For more information on the JOBS program, see <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ASSISTANCE/CASH/Pages/Jobs-Program.aspx>.