



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



NRFC State Profile: New York 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
Access: Supports for Living	Fatherhood/Parenting	This state-funded organization provides the <i>Healthy Families</i> program, which screens new parents and pregnant women for risk factors contributing to child abuse, and provides information and support to foster strong parenting skills. Participants are eligible to enroll during pregnancy and through the first three months of their child's life. They can remain in the program until their child's enrollment in Head Start or school.	Middletown and Newburgh. Website (888) 750-2266
Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability	Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens is a state-funded organization offering GED classes and the <i>Man-Up Fatherhood Program</i> , which serves noncustodial fathers aged 16-to-24, providing fatherhood classes to help them bond with their children and become socially, emotionally, and financially involved in their lives. The organization receives funding through the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development's <i>Fathering Initiative</i> .	Brooklyn and Queens. Website (718) 722-6000

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Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Catholic Charities of Wayne County (CCWC)	Healthy Relationships	Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester, CCWC was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 to provide the <i>Thriving Families Program</i> in partnership with CCWC. The program provides relationships skills training for adults using the <i>PREP (Prevention Relation Enhancement Program)</i> curriculum and for high school students using the <i>Connections: Dating and Relationships</i> curriculum.	Wayne County Website (315) 331-4867
Central Nassau Guidance and Counseling Services, Inc.	Healthy Relationships	Central Nassau Guidance and Counseling Services was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 for <i>Project FORWARD (Facing Obstacles in Relationships and Work with Action, Resources, Direction)</i> , which provides prevention education and skill building workshop for young people and couples ages 16-29.	Nassau County Website (516) 822-6111
Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability Healthy Relationships	Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 to provide group education and individual support for fathers in the areas of relationship building, parenting, financial literacy, and employment. The organization also offers the <i>Dedicated Dads</i> program, which organizes fun activities for fathers to do with their children and other fathers.	Jamestown and Dunkirk. Website (716) 366-3333
Claremont Neighborhood Centers, Inc.	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability Domestic Violence	Claremont Neighborhood Centers, Inc. is a state-funded organization that offers the <i>Young Fathers Program</i> for fathers ages 16-to-25. The program includes parenting and anger management classes, mentoring, individual and family counseling, domestic violence (batterers) intervention, and employment assistance. The organization receives funding through the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development's <i>Fathering Initiative</i> .	Claremont/Morrisania section of the Bronx. Website (718) 588-1000
EAC, Inc.	Fatherhood/Parenting	EAC, Inc. is a state- and county funded organization that offers parenting programs through the Long Island Parenting Institute. The organization also offers classes on anger management and conflict resolution.	Long Island and New York City. Website (516) 539-0150

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Family Enrichment Network	Fatherhood/Parenting Incarceration/Reentry Economic Stability Healthy Relationships	Family Enrichment Network was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 to provide <i>New Pathways for Fathers</i> in partnership with Family Planning of South Central New York. The program is offered at community locations and to fathers detained in Broome and Tioga County Jails.	Broome and Tioga counties. Website (607) 723-8313
Family Services of Westchester, Inc.	Incarceration/Reentry Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability Healthy Relationships	Family Services of Westchester, Inc. is a state and county funded organization offering family support programs and <i>Reentry Plus</i> , a program for men currently on parole or previously involved in the Criminal Justice System.	Westchester County. Website (914) 937-2320
Forestdale, Inc.	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability Domestic Violence	Forestdale receives funding through the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development's <i>Fathering Initiative</i> and provides a 12-week course to help noncustodial fathers strengthen bonds with their children and improve their parenting skills. The organization also addresses domestic violence prevention and offers job training and placement. Separate classes are offered for single fathers aged 16-to-24.	Queens. Website (718) 263-0740
The Fortune Society	Incarceration/Reentry Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability	The Fortune Society receives funding through the New York Department of Youth and Community Development's <i>Fathering Initiative</i> . The Fortune Society provides parenting and employment services for previously incarcerated fathers at various community locations. The <i>I-CAN (Individualized Corrections Achievement Network)</i> program helps currently incarcerated men and women prepare for reentry by providing parenting classes, group counseling, professional development courses, continuing education, and relapse prevention workshops.	Serves previously incarcerated parents in Long Island City and West Harlem. The I-CAN program serves men and women in Rikers Island facilities. Website (212) 691-7554

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Friends of Island Academy	Fatherhood/Parenting Healthy Relationships Economic Stability Domestic Violence	Friends of Island Academy offers <i>Friends to Fathers</i> , a community-based initiative for noncustodial fathers who are 25 years and older. Program services include healthy relationship education, parenting skills workshops, domestic violence/batterers intervention, and financial literacy classes. The organization receives funding through the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development's <i>Fathering Initiative</i> .	Bronx. Website (718) 653-5301
Job Corps	Economic Stability	<i>Job Corps</i> 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 seven Job Corp centers in New York. Website with locations and phone numbers
Montefiore Medical Center	Healthy Relationships Economic Stability	In partnership with University Behavioral Associates, Montefiore was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 for <i>Supporting Healthy Relationships</i> , which provides relationship education and employment workshops.	Bronx. Website (718) 401-5050
Nepperham Community Center	Healthy Relationships Economic Stability Parenting	Nepperham Community Center was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 for the <i>Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Program</i> , which provides economic self-sufficiency, relationship, and parenting skills training for at-risk youth ages 16-24, couples, caregivers, and parents.	Lower Hudson Valley (Greenburgh, Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle, Tuckahoe, White Plains and Yonkers). Website (914) 965-0203
New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability Domestic Violence	DYCD's <i>Fatherhood Initiative</i> helps fathers reconnect with their children and develop essential parenting skills. Various organizations listed in this state profile receive DYCD funds to provide parenting and employment services for fathers. DYCD also works with community-based organizations to empower individuals impacted by domestic violence. Services include legal assistance, counseling, housing services, and long-term planning.	New York City. Fatherhood Initiative Website Domestic Violence Programs Website NYC Domestic Violence Hotline: 1 (800) 621-HOPE

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Northeast Parent and Child Society	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability Domestic Violence	The Northeast Parent and Child Society is a state-funded organization that provides various programs for families who are at risk for the removal of a child. The programs offer a range of services to families including assistance with budgeting and household management, couples and family therapy, parenting skills training, and domestic violence education and safety planning.	Multiple locations throughout the state. Website (518) 346-1284
The Osborne Association	Fatherhood/Parenting Incarceration/Reentry Economic Stability	The Osborne Association was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 to help previously incarcerated fathers and other justice-involved fathers rebuild ties with their children. The <i>Fatherhood Initiative</i> includes a range of services, including individual and family counseling, co-parenting skills development, legal assistance, peer counseling, GED classes, and classes on financial literacy.	Serves the entire state. Website (718) 707-2600
Phoenix House New York	Healthy Relationships	Phoenix House was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 to provide the <i>Connections</i> program, which works with low-income individuals and couples struggling with drug abuse and addiction. Services include a focus on building skills to form healthy relationships and avoid separation or divorce.	Manhattan Upper West Side, Brentwood, Bronx, and Brooklyn. Website (917) 414-5978
The Retreat, Inc.	Healthy Relationships Economic Stability Domestic Violence Fatherhood/Parenting	The Retreat, Inc. was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 to continue the <i>Suffolk County Fatherhood Initiative</i> , which helps economically struggling fathers, who have not committed domestic violence, work towards economic stability; develop healthy relationship skills with their past, present and/or future partners; and improve their parenting capabilities and connections with their children.	Suffolk County. Website (631) 761-8518

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
STRIVE	Fatherhood/Parenting Healthy Relationships Economic Stability	STRIVE provides the state funded <i>Strong Fathers, Stronger Families</i> program, which includes fatherhood and healthy relationship classes, computer basics, financial education, family court education, peer mentorship, and job search assistance.	New York City. Website (212) 360-1100
Structured Employment Economic Development Corporation (SEEDCO)	Fatherhood/Parenting Healthy Relationships Economic Stability	SEEDCO was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 to continue the <i>Strong Fathers, Stronger Families</i> program, which help low-income fathers in New York City with parenting and relationship skills training, job preparation, placement assistance, and career advancement. Direct services are provided by BronxWorks and STRIVE.	New York City. Website (212) 473-0255
Visiting Nurse Service of New York	Fatherhood/Parenting Domestic Violence Economic Stability	The state-funded Visiting Nurse Service of New York offers the <i>Bronx Fatherhood Program</i> for noncustodial fathers ages 16 to 24. Services include workshops in anger management, domestic violence, co-parenting, and men’s issues. Participants attend support groups, parenting skills classes, and connections to help with continuing education and finding employment.	Bronx. Website 1 (800) 675-0391

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 New York, if parents are unmarried at the time of their child’s birth, they can fill out a Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity form to establish paternity. These forms can be found at the hospital where the child is born, local child support offices, or birth registrars. When paternity is contested, New York State child support officers can assist either parent in getting the court system to order a DNA test.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 New York, the courts make decisions about child custody when parents cannot reach an agreement. Courts base these decisions on what they conclude to be in the child's best interest, after hearing testimony from both parents and appointing a lawyer for the child. The court may also order testimony from a social services or mental health agency. Parents have the option of mediation, which is when both parents sit down with a trained, neutral negotiator to try to come to an agreement before seeing a judge.ⁱⁱ

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.ⁱⁱⁱ

The New York State Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) and 58 local district Child Support Enforcement Units implement child support services in New York. The website for DCSE provides information on applying for, enforcing, and modifying child support. Go to the [website](#) or call (888) 208-4485 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.^{iv}

In addition to FMLA, New York has the Paid Sick Leave Law. This law allows employees who work 80 or more hours a year to accrue sick leave to care for themselves or a family member. The amount of leave and whether the leave is paid depends on the employer's number of employees.^v

New York also has New York Military Family Leave, which requires employers with at least 20 employees to give time off to eligible employees with a spouse who is a member of the National Guard, Reserves, or Armed Forces, and who is deployed during a period of military combat to a combat theater or combat zone of operations. Employers must grant employees up to ten days of leave while the employee's spouse is on leave during deployment.

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 New York, 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.^{vi}

Families in New York City are eligible for free or low cost subsidized child care for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years, while children with special needs may be able to receive care through age 18. In order to qualify, parents must be working or in an approved training or education program and must be receiving services from either the Administration for Children's Services or the Human Resources Administration. Income requirements are based on family size and availability of funds.^{vii}

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.^{viii}

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 New York, TANF is called Family Assistance (FA). Under FA, eligible adults are limited to receiving benefits for a total of 60 months in their lifetime, including months of TANF-funded assistance granted in other states. Parents and other adult relatives receiving FA who are determined to be able to work must comply with federal work requirements to receive FA benefits.^{ix}

References

- ⁱ For more information on Paternity Establishment in New York, see https://www.childsupport.ny.gov/dcse/paternity_establishment.html.
- ⁱⁱ For more information on Child Custody in New York, see http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/nyc/family/fags_custodyandvisitation.shtml.
- ⁱⁱⁱ For more information on the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, see www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css.
- ^{iv} For more information on the Family and Medical leave Act, see <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28.pdf>.
- ^v For more information on New York's Paid Sick Leave Law, see <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/about/paid-sick-leave-what-employers-need-to-know.page>.
- ^{vi} For more information on the Child Care and Development Fund, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/about/what-we-do>.
- ^{vii} For more information on Child Care Assistance in New York, see http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/html/child_care/child_care_eligibility.shtml.
- ^{viii} For more information on Rental Assistance, see http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance.
- ^{ix} For more information on Family Assistance, see <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/temporary-assistance/>.