

**2024 Fatherhood Summit**  
**Table Group Discussion Consolidated Notes**

**Basic Needs**

Barriers -

- Overall lack of services for fathers
- Family housing doesn't include dads – need more data on this
- System – Policies and practices don't include dads
- Burden of proof for benefits is harder for dads than moms
  - Don't believe him when he says he isn't working
- Don't have access to legal documents
  
- Personal biases of staff – don't treat dads the same as moms
- Sigma against men and fathers applying for services
  
- No emotional support for dads – hard to ask for help

How can Government Agencies Do Better -

- Policies and practices should be gender neutral
- Co-Governance and Funding for Dads
- Oversight program funding
  - Share funding with other agencies and work together
- Authentic partnership with dads with lived experience
- Policy Audit that includes people with lived experience
- Steering Committee that include dads
- Diversity involved in decision making

What I Was Hoping to See -

- How we can educate agencies to include dads as a vital part of the family
- Agency Presentations about father specific activities, policies, and services
- Plan to address increasing community resources for fathers
- Consensus on what Basic Needs are
- More father specific resources

What Excited Me About Today -

- Lived experience panel (dads)
- Ohio Presentation
- Communities want more Fatherhood Cafes
- Networking support from upper administration