



Washington Fatherhood Council

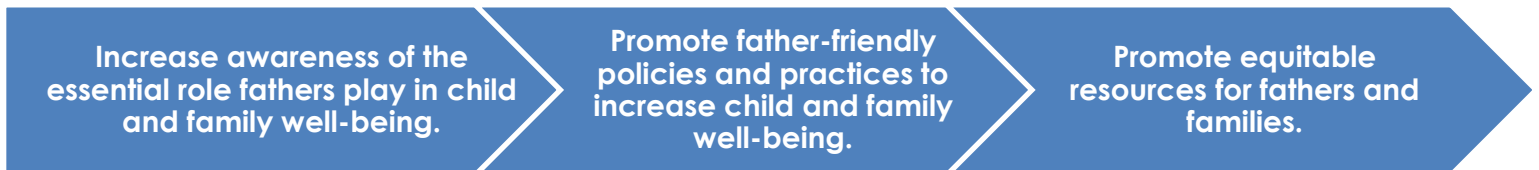
Made up of a diverse group of fathers, organizations, academics, and advocates, we provide support to improve statewide services, connect dads to resources they need, and bring fathers with lived experiences to the forefront of our efforts. We work collaboratively to raise awareness around the unique role of fathers, cultivate a father-inclusive culture in our communities, agencies, and policies, and develop leaders in our efforts. The work of the Council aligns with the Governor's [poverty reduction efforts](#) and DSHS's goal of reducing poverty and inequality in Washington state.



We know from research¹ and the work of the Washington Fatherhood Council that:

- Child and family well-being improve when fathers are positively engaged in their children's lives.
- Fathers play a unique and important role in children's development.
- Fathers should have support and resources to become the fathers they aspire to be.

Our goals are to:



We are grounded in our values to:



Whatever your role is, you can make a difference for fathers.

Individuals can:

LEARN

- Learn about the benefits of having a father in a child's life and the stigmas they face.
- Learn to tell your story with a purpose and provide opportunities for Dads to tell their stories – promote a Dad's voice.
- Attend a Washington Fatherhood Council event.

SHARE

- Share what you learn about the importance of fathers and the barriers they face.
- Invite others to Fatherhood Council Events.
- Provide fathers the opportunity to tell their stories.

INTEGRATE

- Integrate what you learn into your personal and professional lives.
- Advocate for change with your elected officials.
- Promote change within your organization.

¹ [Father Facts 8](#), eighth edition, 2019, National Fatherhood Initiative®

Programs,
Organizations
and Systems
can:

LEARN

- Provide all-staff trainings on the importance of fatherhood and how it relates to your mission.
- Support your staff attending Washington Fatherhood Council and other Father Friendly Events.
- Sponsor/partner to hold local events with the Washington Fatherhood Council.
- Assess your father-friendly policies, practices and programs by learning about and completing the Father-Friendly Checkup

SHARE

- Recruit, hire and retain fathers for direct service and leadership roles at your organization.
- Add your father-friendly programs to our Statewide Fatherhood Resources Map.
- Share your successes working with fathers with other organizations and programs
- Promote the Father Friendly Principles in and outside your organization.
- Create and expand culturally appropriate services for fathers of all backgrounds to meet their unique need

INTEGRATE

- Include fathers in your program design, policy development, and evaluation processes.
- Commit to communicating with all parents whenever possible. Be sure to ask for all parents' contact information so that you can keep them informed.
- Take all parents' schedules into account when setting meeting times to maximize participation.
- Ensure materials in your offices and on your outreach and communication channels are welcoming to Dads and tailored to their specific needs.

Resources from the Fatherhood Council

- Assess your father friendly policies, practices and programs by:
 - Learning about and apply the [Washington Father-Friendly Principles](#).
 - Completing the [Father-Friendly Checkup](#).
- Sponsor/partner a local [Dad Allies Community Café event](#).
- Sponsor a [Dad Allies Provider Learning Series](#) and encourage staff to attend.
- Encourage staff to attend the [Annual Statewide Fatherhood Summit](#).
- Add your father friendly programs to our [state map](#).
- Use the father-friendly photos from our [photo bank](#).

Together we can make Washington a more father-friendly state.



Washington Fatherhood Council

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