



**Commission on
Fatherhood**

Ted Strickland, Governor
J. Tracy Robinson, Director



May 26, 2010

HAND DELIVERED

President Bill Harris
The Ohio Senate
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: HB 349 Ohio Commission on Fatherhood statute

Dear President Harris:

On behalf of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, I am writing to respectfully request that you schedule H.B. 349 for consideration and vote by the Senate.

There is urgency because the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood plans to apply for anticipated federal funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS"). According to HHS, "the 2011 Budget includes \$500 million for a new Fatherhood, Marriage, and Families Innovation Fund. The fund will provide competitive grants to States to conduct and rigorously evaluate comprehensive responsible fatherhood programs."

We anticipate that the request for proposals will be posted sometime in June to coincide with the celebration of Father's Day. It would greatly strengthen Ohio's grant application if we could state that both chambers of the Ohio general assembly recently reaffirmed their support of fatherhood programming by passing HB 349.

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In this time of budget shortfalls, Ohio could position itself to receive federal funding to support fatherhood. Moreover, as one of the only states with a statutorily mandated fatherhood commission, Ohio is in a unique position to benefit from the HHS grant, which gives funding priority to established state fatherhood programs.

As was stated during proponent testimony for H.B. 349 on March 16th before the Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood funds innovative programs, engages the community, trains practitioners and develops policy recommendations, all with the objective of enhancing the well being of Ohio's children. If enacted, H.B. 349 will allow the Commission to fund additional initiatives and to have an even greater impact on Ohio's families.

Thus, we respectfully request that you schedule H.B. 349 for consideration and vote by the Senate prior to summer adjournment. Your kind consideration and support will benefit Ohio's children by strengthening fatherhood.

Yours sincerely,



J. Tracy Robinson
Executive Director

cc: Senator Tom Niehaus, Vice Chair Rules Committee
Senator Ray Miller, OCF Commissioner
Senator David Goodman, OCF Commissioner
Senator Kevin Coughlin
Senator Steve Buehrer
Senator Shirley Smith

Fatherhood Commission Invoice Summary

SFY 10 Fatherhood	TANF /	SFY 10	March	April	May	June	Total FY10	Total Left to Spend
ForeverDads	Sue							
Fatherhood Class Participants (goal per month 13)			31	14			45	
Variety Father Participants			208	280			488	
Monthly Total		\$ 60,000.00	\$ 14,196.97	\$ 14,020.74				
Talbert House	Sue							
Fatherhood Class Participants (goal per month 13)			8	10			18	
Variety Father Participants			47	44			91	
Monthly Total		\$ 60,000.00	\$ 6,072.39					
Summit County	Sue							
Fatherhood Class Participants (goal per month 13)			23	25			48	
Variety Father Participants			139	51			190	
Monthly Total		\$ 60,000.00	\$ 11,480.93	\$ 12,551.43				
Cuyahoga County	Sue							
Fatherhood Class Participants (goal per month 13)			N/A	N/A				
Variety Father Participants			N/A	N/A				
Monthly Total		\$ 60,000.00	\$ -	\$ -				
Columbus Urban League	Karen							
Fatherhood Class Participants (goal per month 13)			5	23			28	
Variety Father Participants			122	99			221	
Monthly Total		\$ 60,000.00	\$ 7,184.09	\$ 15,041.19				
OSU-Green County	Karen							
Fatherhood Class Participants (goal per month 13)			N/A	N/A				
Variety Father Participants			N/A	N/A				
Monthly Total		\$ 60,000.00	\$ -	\$ -				
HARCATUS	Karen							
Fatherhood Class Participants (goal per month 13)			N/A	N/A				
Variety Father Participants			N/A	N/A				
Monthly Total		\$ 60,000.00	\$ -	\$ -				
WSOS	Karen							
Fatherhood Class Participants (goal per month 13)			21	0			21	
Variety Father Participants			13	0			13	
Monthly Total		\$ 60,000.00	\$ 8,282.89					
Action for Children	Karen							
Fatherhood Class Participants (goal per month 13)			0	22			22	
Variety Father Participants			2150	22			2172	
Monthly Total		\$ 60,000.00	\$ 1,303.88	\$ 6,453.90				
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 540,000.00						
Clients Served All Programs								
2010 4 Months \$60,000 Number of Dads Served (13 per month) :	52							
2010 12 Months \$100,000 Number of Dads Served (13 per month) :	156							

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/ PROJECT ABSTRACT

Healthy Parenting Resource Center

Project Title: Healthy Parenting Resource Center
Applicant Name: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Address: 50 W. Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215, A5093
Contact Phone: 614-752-2649
E-Mail Address: Athena.riley@jfs.ohio.gov
Web Site Address: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/>

A Collaboration between the *Ohio Department of Job and Family Services* and the *Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families* that Provides Guidance, Information, and Essential Tools to Promote the Growth and Well-being of Children

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) through the Office of Child Support (OCS) and the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF), in partnership with the Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families (OPNFF) propose to create internet and mobile phone (Smartphone) databases that contain information that will assist low-income families with developing and maintaining the emotional, medical, and financial support of their children. This will be the first comprehensive state website in Ohio with links to information regarding child support, visitation, fatherhood programs and work force development. The database will be created and maintained by ODJF staff and based on the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood website with links to the websites of OPNFF, the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks, and the Ohio Supreme Court. These state databases will contain useful information on the CSE process including information regarding child support training, updates and policy such as the waiver and compromise of arrears program and access and visitation programs. In addition, the website will provide links to needed non-CSE services including but not limited to pro-se court forms to establish visitation, samples of CSE payment modification agreements, referrals to mediation, fatherhood programs and workforce development

For the low income population who may not have access to personal computers, an innovative technological strategy will be implemented through text messaging to ensure that these parents also have the opportunity to remain connected to the child support, workforce development, and needs-assistance based programs which are essential to maintaining informed, stable, and healthy families. Important child support related information will be text messaged to the Smartphone of a customer who signs up for the service, with key components in place for protecting the integrity of the customer's personal information. Smartphones have the same advanced capabilities and functionality as a personal computer.

The internet and mobile phone (Smartphone) databases will reduce costs of disseminating program information by eliminating the need for paper production and mailings. In addition, by creating and housing the database on an ODJFS website, it will be cost effective to gather data on how many people visit the website. If emails are obtained, free follow up surveys can be emailed to visitors to collect usage data. This will allow a cost-effective way to measure the project's effectiveness using quantifiable data.

The website will contain information about the CSE process as well as needed non-CSE services so that parents can better meet their financial obligations to support their children.