

NYC Dads - 2013 Fatherhood Initiative Progress Report

NYC Administration for Children's Services

Progress during 2012 - 2013

2012	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refined foster care agency training to better support (1) adolescent males in foster care who are fathers or expectant fathers; and (2) foster parents who shelter young men who are fathers or expectant fathers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In July 2012, the ACS Guide to Working with Young Parents in Out-of-Home Care was completed and disseminated. • Developed the "Pregnant and Parenting Steering Committee," which has reviewed current policies, identified best practices, and developed strategies to reduce teen foster care pregnancy rates and provide parenting youth with the tools they need to become effective parents. • Led an interagency coalition to continue the work of fatherhood empowerment, beyond "Dads Take Your Child To School Day". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Teen Specialist Unit conducted conversations with young fathers from fatherhood programs and ACS Provider Agencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On July 19, 2013, young fathers participated in a panel discussion where they spoke about their experiences as young fathers who have been involved with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. • The Office of Family Permanency Team Conferencing staff continued to reinforce the importance of engaging fathers with their foster care agencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From May 1, 2012-June 30, 2013, fathers participated in a total of 1,033 Family Permanency Team Conferences. • On May 31, 2013, ACS held a "Fatherhood Empowerment Video Conference" to capture the success of the Dads Take Your Child to School Day Initiative and discuss the Fatherhood Empowerment efforts being implemented in each borough. The Commissioner of ACS held a panel of prominent male leaders in the fatherhood arena and the meeting was broadcasted live to ten Division of Child Protection locations across the City. • In conjunction with The Mayor's Fatherhood Initiative and various City agencies, The Department of Education, The NYC Human Resources Administration and The Department of Youth and Community Development, ACS took the lead in forming a committee to address the impact of fatherlessness on families and communities. The committee (1) provided oversight of the Dads Take Your Child to School Day Initiative to ensure optimal participation from community organizations and schools; (2) provided training and resources for an expansive network of fathers; and (3) hosted citywide community action planning meetings for fathers, community leaders, and City and nonprofit agencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On July 31st, 2013, the committee convened over 200 leaders in Harlem to encourage them to lead fatherhood engagement efforts in their local communities.

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Additional Successes & Best Practices

- The Queens Borough Office of the Division of Child Protection (DCP) held the first *"Father and Daughter Gala"* on June 14, 2013.
- Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, all incoming Child Protective Specialist workers (76 total staff) were trained on the Practice Core Curriculum. Best practices and guidance on how to engage and serve fathers have been incorporated into the Practice Core.
- The Staten Island Borough Office, in collaboration with the Staten Island Community Partnership, held its *2nd Annual Fatherhood Resource Fair* on June 9, 2013.
- In July 2013, the ACS Division of Youth and Family Justice (DYFJ) Case Management unit conducted *"Doughnuts with Dad"* and *"DVDs with Dad."* These events were developed to encourage visitation between residents and their fathers or other male role models.
- On September 12, 2013, in collaboration with The Department of Youth and Community Development, The New York City Housing Authority, The NYC Human Resources Administration and The Harlem Children's Zone's Promise Academy 1 in the St. Nicholas Houses, ACS hosted a *"NYC Responsible Fatherhood Coalition"* kick-off event to promote *"Dads Take Your Child To School Day"* 2013.
- In FY 2012-2013, The Division of Family Court and Legal Services (FCLS) facilitated the training of 31 new ACS FCLS attorneys on the definition of a father, under NYS law.
- In 2012 and 2013, The Bronx Division of Child Protection held a total of three *Fatherhood Resource Fairs*.
- The ACS Citywide Policy Council includes fathers who are intentionally included in ACS father engagement activities, i.e. the conferences, borough groups, etc.
- All Head Start grantees are required to have parents involved in a shared governance modality.
- Held 3rd Annual Fathers Matters Breakfast honoring six fathers who overcame obstacles to become exceptional fathers to their children.

Please see the [NYC Young Men's Initiative](#) and [NYC DADS](#) websites for additional information on the progress of NYC Dads.