



Strength in Families Program

2015 ReFORM Grant

Washington State Department of Corrections

Overview of Federal Grant Information

Name of Award: Responsible Fatherhood Opportunities for Reentry and Mobility (ReFORM)

Funding Agency: Administration for Children and Families (ACF), US Dept. of Health and Human Services

Award Period: 5 years (non-competitive funding application submitted annually)

Award Amount: \$1.5 million annually, \$7.5 million total

Number of Awards: 5 awarded nationally

Award Structure: Planning phase 10.1.15 – 6.30.15; Implementation phase 7.1.16 – 9.30.20

Eligible Applicants: States, territories, Native American tribes and tribal organizations, educational institutions, public and nonprofit community entities

Goals and Objectives: Funds are intended to support community-centered, skill-based pre- and post-release supportive services for fathers transitioning from incarceration to their communities. Grant recipients must use funding to support all responsible fatherhood activities as authorized by the Claims Resolution Act of 2010. These include 1) strengthening positive father-child engagement, 2) supporting healthy partner relationships, and 3) enhancing employment opportunities and improving economic mobility. Programs must integrate each of these elements, be appropriately tailored to the characteristics of fathers transitioning from incarceration and their families, and should include comprehensive case management. Grant recipients are expected to develop partnerships with other organizations to support successful reentry.

Target Population: Eligible fathers must have been tried and convicted as an adult rather than as a juvenile and must be low-income. Individuals may be an expectant father, a biological father, an adoptive father, a stepfather or a person who is acknowledged as a father figure (e.g., grandfather or foster father) of a dependent child or a young adult child up to 24 years of age. Fathers must be within no more than nine months of release from incarceration and participation must be voluntary.

These services are available to all eligible persons, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, or religion.

ACF's desired short-term outcomes include:

- Improved healthy relationship and marriage skills
- Improved parenting and co-parenting skills
- Increased frequency of father/child engagement

- Increased financial responsibility of fathers
- Progress toward greater economic stability, including increased skill attainment and employment
- Reduced recidivism

ACF's long-term outcomes include:

- Improved family functioning (couple relationships, parenting and co-parenting)
- Improved adult and child well-being
- Increased economic stability and mobility
- Reduced poverty
- Reduced recidivism

DOC's Proposal and Program Design

Target population

Offenders within nine months of release **from** Washington Corrections Center (WCC), Larch (LCC), Cedar Creek (CCCC), and Stafford Creek (SCCC) **to** Thurston, Lewis, Cowlitz, Clark and Pierce Counties. Participation is strictly voluntary and is not dependent upon community supervision by DOC following release. DOC anticipates serving 120 to 140 families per year.

Pre-release

Eligibility and safety screening: Multidisciplinary team review including individuals with expertise in domestic violence and child abuse and neglect

Curriculum delivery: Skill-building programming focused on parenting, healthy relationships and employment and/or education readiness (expanding delivery of curricula currently used by DOC)

Family engagement: Grant-funded video visiting with partners, co-parents and/or children

Transition planning: In collaboration with facility staff, multidisciplinary release planning with Case Managers (4), Employment/Education Navigators (2) and Family Services Specialists (2)

Family reintegration counseling: Intensive, solution-focused counseling with family members and participants to support successful transition home

Post-release

Curriculum delivery: Skill-building programming focusing on parenting (emotion coaching) and reinforcement of skills built with pre-release programming during case management meetings

Family reintegration counseling: Intensive, solution-focused in-home counseling with participants and family members to support stability and successful transition home

Case management: Multidisciplinary approach with Case Managers, Family Services Instructors and Education and Employment Navigators. Services begin with intensive weekly support and gradually transition to monthly support over a six to nine month timeframe. The primary areas of

focus are family reintegration, stability and wellness; access to key supportive services and resources; economic stability; and the development of both a long-term plan for participant and family success and an effective community support system.

Grant management

SIF Program Manager: Full-time position based in the Reentry Division supervised by Assistant Secretary of Reentry. Carolyn House-Higgins 360.725.8675 / ckhousehiggins@doc1.wa.gov

Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant # 90FO0008.

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.