



Dear Colleagues and Fellow Providers,

We are writing to formally invite you to become a member of the Alameda County Fathers Corps, a county-wide team of male service providers trained to help strengthen families by fostering constructive engagement of fathers in the care and upbringing of their children. Members who join us for Year Three will commit to actively participating in a nine-month training series that will include an orientation, 10 trainings, and one acknowledgement/celebration in June 2016. We are pursuing this work with firm commitment to the mission of the Fathers Corps, i.e., to promote and support fathers and father figures to be meaningfully engaged with their children and families, and to advocate for family service providers to provide father friendly services and to assist fathers in strengthening their parenting skills.

**The Fathers Corps Orientation will take place Friday, September 11, 2015, 12:00 pm  
- 2:00 pm at First 5 Alameda County, 1115 Atlantic Avenue, Alameda.**

To RSVP, please contact Lea Yancey at (510) 227-6973 or [Lea.Yancey@First5Alameda.org](mailto:Lea.Yancey@First5Alameda.org).

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Alameda County Fathers Corps, established in 2013, is a collaboration between First 5 Alameda County, Alameda County Public Health Department, and Alameda County Social Services. The Fathers Corps is designed to increase involvement of fathers in their children's lives by focusing on factors specific to the needs of men and the challenges they face in fulfilling their role as fathers. Since June 2014, the Fathers Corps has graduated an energetic team of 37 male Father Engagement Specialists and 13 male Father Engagement Mentors. After participating, Fathers Corps members reported work-related improvements in a number of areas including increased knowledge of child development; feeling more supported in their work with fathers of young children; and feeling more connected to other male providers in the community.

#### **THE MODEL**

The Fathers Corps provides free training opportunities to male service providers on a range of topics such as Child Development, Trauma's Impact on Brain Development, Parental Rights and Responsibilities, Working with Teen Fathers and other topics essential to effective father involvement. Trainings are from 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm and will begin September 25, 2015 and conclude May 20, 2016. The principal objective of the trainings is to support male providers who serve fathers by discussing how the training content relates to serving fathers and to inspire them to become advocates for supporting the needs of fathers in Alameda County. Providers will help strengthen families by fostering constructive engagement of fathers in the care and upbringing of their children and raising the awareness of the need for their agencies to have programs in place to serve fathers. Upon completion of the training series, participants will have a greater understanding of early childhood development and early care and education, an in-depth knowledge of the communities they serve, and greater awareness of successful father engagement strategies and of services and programs that support fathers and the development of young children. Ideally, Fathers Corps members will be available to county and community-based programs to provide support regarding how to engage fathers and support families in Alameda County. Family service programs such as Help Me Grow, Promise Neighborhoods, Alameda County Healthy Start Initiative, Special Start, and other Alameda County family-centered home visiting programs can request the support of Fathers Corps Members when working with families.

New Fathers Corps participants who attend at least seven of the ten Fathers Corps trainings will receive an Alameda County Fathers Corps **Father Engagement Specialist** certificate. Returning Fathers Corps members who attend at least seven of the ten Fathers Corps trainings will receive an Alameda County Fathers Corps **Father Engagement Mentor** certificate. Members returning for their third year who attend five of the ten trainings, participate in quarterly ambassador meetings and complete the fatherhood advocacy/awareness activities with their home agencies will receive a **Fathers Corps Ambassador** certificate.

We are extremely excited by the potential impact of this work. Research shows irrefutably that children who grow up without a father actively involved in their lives experience significantly higher rates of depression, alcohol and drug abuse, failure in school, teen pregnancy, criminal activity and incarceration, adult poverty and other lifelong challenges. Conversely, children with constructively engaged fathers are far more likely to live happier, healthier and more successful lives.

We urge you to join us for Year Three of the Fathers Corps and commit yourself to its mission. We cannot think of a more immediate impact on strengthening Alameda County families than fostering the increased involvement of fathers in their children’s lives.

**All trainings are from 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm; lunch is provided. Below, please see the tentative training calendar.**

Date	Training Topic
9/25/2015	Child Development 101 / Temperament
10/16/2015	Trauma and its Impact on Brain Development
11/20/2015	Preschool Expulsion/Suspension of African American Boys
12/18/2015	Discipline
1/8/2016	Understanding Gangs, Law Enforcement, & Popular Culture
1/29/2016	Fathers Corps Retreat & Program Check-in
2/19/2016	Fathers’ Rights & Responsibilities (Child Support 101 and Custody 101)
3/18/2016	Supporting Fathers of Children with Special Needs
4/15/2016	Working with Teen Fathers
5/20/2016	Co-Parenting

Sincerely,

Kevin Bremond  
 Administrator, First 5 Alameda County  
 Co-Founder, Alameda County Fathers Corps

Gary Thompson  
 Manager, Family Health Services Fatherhood Initiative  
 Co-Founder, Alameda County Fathers Corps

Please visit our webpage for more information about the [Alameda County Fathers Corps](#).

**For more information contact** Kevin Bremond at (510) 227-6932 or [Kevin.Bremond@First5Alameda.org](mailto:Kevin.Bremond@First5Alameda.org)  
**To RSVP please contact** Lea Yancey at (510) 227-6973 or [Lea.Yancey@First5Alameda.org](mailto:Lea.Yancey@First5Alameda.org).