The Alameda County Fathers Corps (ACFC) is a collaborative effort of First 5 Alameda County, Alameda County’s Health Care Services Agency and Social Services Agency. The ACFC promotes and supports fathers and father-figures to be meaningfully engaged with their children and families, and advocates for family service providers to provide father friendly services and to assist fathers in strengthening their parenting skills.

In 2015, the ACFC engaged in two data gathering projects to learn more about how to support fathers and barriers to fathers’ engagement with their children. The ACFC surveyed over 100 public and community based family service providers. The ACFC also conducted focus groups and one-on-one interviews with fathers who are not engaged in lives of their children. These efforts, along with lessons learned from the ACFC learning community, helped create the following policy and program recommendations:

**PROGRAMMATIC AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS BARRIERS TO FATHER ENGAGEMENT**

- **REQUIRE** Father Friendly Principles be reflected in measurable contract outcomes for family service providers in Alameda County.
- **TRAIN** family service providers to engage fathers and increase the number of male staff.
- **ENSURE** family service programs that contract with the County include a fatherhood component.
- **CREATE** an Inter-Agency Fathers and Families Council to monitor policies and practices within the family court system, Social Services Agency, Health Care Services Agency and Probation.

“Through the work of the Fathers Corps, many lives are and will be changed in a very positive way.”

—FATHERS CORPS MEMBER

For complete list, visit first5alameda.org/alameda-county-fathers-corps


**2013-2017**

**Fathers Corps Activities and Accomplishments**

**Building Provider Capacity**

**Learning Community for Male Service Providers**
- 91 male providers from 45 agencies/programs participated
- 60 Father Engagement Specialist, 18 Mentors, and 12 Ambassadors
- 94% reported that the Fathers Corps helped them to be a more knowledgeable, skillful and/or engaged provider

**Fatherhood Training Series Open to All Providers**
- 10 trainings provided, attended by 268 unique providers

**Providing Father Friendly Principles Training**

**21 Trainings Provided to Public Systems and Community Based Organizations, Attended by Over 500 Unique Providers**
- In 2014, the ACFC adopted 7 Father Friendly Principles (FFP) to ensure service providers support fathers. Since then, many of the participants in the learning community have adopted the FFP at their agencies.

**Fathers Corps Participants Reported Father Friendly Changes at Their Agencies**

- 74% posted FFP at agency
- 61% presented FFP to leadership
- 55% presented FFP to staff
- 34% formally adopted FFP
- 61% increased outreach to fathers
- 40% provided training to staff on working with fathers
- 30% changed environment
- 27% hired male staff

**Assessing Needs and Barriers**

**Focus Groups and Interviews with Disengaged Fathers**
- 22 African American fathers and 9 Latino fathers participated

**Survey of Alameda County Service Providers**
- Survey completed by 111 providers

**Changing the System**

**Fatherhood Strategy in First 5 Alameda County Strategic Plan**

**Expanded Collaboration with Alameda County’s Department of Child Support Services, Health Care Services Agency, Probation Department, and Social Services Agency To:**

- Create father-specific services
- Launch media campaign to build awareness of the important role fathers play in the development of their children
- Host Fatherhood Action Summit with leaders to implement new policy and programs
- Establish Inter-Agency Fatherhood Workgroup

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