



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 will commit to actively participating in a nine-month training series that will include nine trainings, one full-day retreat, and one celebration in June 2019. We are pursuing this work with a firm commitment to the mission of the Fathers Corps -- 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. [Click here to review the Fathers Corps 5-Year Report.](#)

**Fathers Corps Training will take place at First 5 Alameda County,
1115 Atlantic Avenue, Alameda.**

For questions about registration, contact:

Virve Hernandez at (510) 227-6944 or Virve.Hernandez@first5alameda.org

BACKGROUND

The Alameda County Fathers Corps, established in 2013, is a collaboration between First 5 Alameda County, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, and Alameda County Social Services Agency. The Fathers Corps is designed to increase involvement of fathers in their children's lives by building the capacity of male service providers to effectively engage and support fathers' needs and increasing providers' understanding of the critical role fathers/father-figures play in the lives of their children. Workshops focus on fathers' role in early childhood and 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 71 male Father Engagement Specialists, 31 male Father Engagement Mentors, and 21 male Fathers Corps Ambassadors from its learning community. After completing the 9-month training, 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. [Click here to view a short video about the Fathers Corps.](#)

FATHERS CORPS LEARNING COMMUNITY MODEL

The Fathers Corps provides free training opportunities to male service providers on a range of topics such as fathers' roles in supporting child development, trauma's impact on brain development, parental rights and responsibilities and other topics essential to effective father involvement. **With the expansion of the Fathers Corps, for the first time, we will open the September, December, January and March Learning Community trainings to female providers. The work of the Fathers Corps has grown over the years and the time has arrived for us to invite our female provider partners to join the Fathers Corps movement the Learning Community has created. We honor the male-centered space the Learning Community has established; the remaining six trainings will continue to be for male providers.**

Trainings are from 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm. This cohort will begin September 21, 2018 and conclude June 21, 2019. The principal objective of the trainings is to support male providers by discussing how the training content relates to their work with fathers. The trainings are also designed to inspire providers 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, policies, welcoming environments, and trained staff in place to serve fathers. Upon completion of the training series, participants will have a greater understanding of early childhood, an in-depth knowledge of the communities they serve, 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 with engaging fathers/father-figures and families in Alameda County.

New Fathers Corps participants who attend at least 7 of the 10 Fathers Corps trainings will receive an Alameda County Fathers Corps **Father Engagement Specialist** certificate. Returning Fathers Corps members who attend at least 7 of the 10 Fathers Corps trainings will receive an Alameda County Fathers Corps **Father Engagement Mentor** certificate. Returning members who have attended, accumulatively, at least 21 trainings will receive a **Fathers Corps Ambassador** certificate. In addition to participating in the professional development activities, participants are expected to work with their home agencies to adopt and implement the [Father Friendly Principles](#). *Click here to view a short video from the 2018 Fathers Corps Celebration.*

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 six of the Fathers Corps and commit yourself to its mission.

All trainings are from 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm; lunch is provided. Below, please see the proposed 2018-19 training calendar. The topics and themes are based on our training topic survey, completed by last year’s Learning Community participants.

Date	2018 – 2019 Fathers Corps Training Calendar
9/21/18	Strategies for Implementing the Father Friendly Principles (All Providers Welcome)
10/19/18	Understanding How Fathers Support Brain Development
11/16/18	Engaging and Supporting Formerly Incarcerated Fathers
12/14/18	Life Course Approach to Improving the Lives of Boys and Men of Color (All Providers Welcome)
1/11/19	Navigating the Child Support System
1/25/19	Full-Day Retreat: (Morning Session for Learning Community) Fathers Corps Inclusiveness Discussion (Afternoon Session All Providers Welcome) Becoming Visible (LGBTQ Dads)
2/15/19	Navigating the Family Court System
3/26/19	Understanding and Reflecting on How Personal Bias Affects Your Work With Families (All Providers Welcome)
4/19/19	Current Immigration Practices and the Impact on Early Childhood
5/17/19	Social Media/ Technology Impact on Brain Development
6/21/19	6 Year Acknowledgement of Fathers Corps Members and Celebration

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](#) or contact Kevin Bremond at (510) 227-6932 or Kevin.Bremond@First5Alameda.org

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