**REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF COMMITMENT**

**From Our Partners due by June 29, 2015.**

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) is applying for a Federal Grant through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) entitled New Pathways for Fathers and Families. The Division of Family and Community Partnerships (FCP) will take the lead on developing this application and will work collaboratively with other Departments and community partners. The primary focus for DCF’s application will be on strengthening positive father-child engagement, improving employment, establishing economic stability and mobility, building healthy co-parenting relationships, and supporting character building. Of special interest is serving expectant and young fathers ages 16-24.

**Grant Summary:**

* **Applications are to ACF - July 7, 2015;**
* **ACF will fund an estimated 49 awards nationally; up to $2 Million per year for 5 years**

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| ACF’s **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 (as appropriate).
 | 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 (as appropriate).
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Funding will support the implementation of evidence-based curricula and strategies that improve father-child relations, familial economic stability, and healthy relationship skills. DCF will partner with existing services to identify families, such as Home Visiting, Child Care, FSCs, Child Custody, Social Services, and more. In conjunction with core activities, grant funds may also be used to (1) enhance the employability skills of low-income participants and help them secure employment; (2) provide employment subsidies for participants who are enrolled in the responsible fatherhood program and who are receiving other appropriate services in the programs; and (3) support financial literacy activities to strengthen budgeting skills, financial management, and asset development. DCF will work with state, local and community partners to coordinate and integrate case planning and service delivery within the community; and align with existing provider resources to address critical needs, such as, domestic violence, mental health, substance use. DCF encourages contribution and letters of support from those partners who have capacity to support the subsidizing of housing, housing vouchers, and/or rental assistance as actual grant funds may *not* be used for such purposes pursuant to this funding announcement.

**At this time, we are asking interested partners to provide a one page letter signed by your organization outlining your commitment and/or potential resources that can be leveraged in this project.** Please include a contact person for your agency with an email and phone number. NJ-DCF will send more detailed information regarding the proposed intervention strategies and potential ways for community partners to support this important work. **Please email letters to:** **dcfaskrfp@dcf.state.nj.us** **by June 29, 2015.**

**A model letter is included on the following page:**

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS IMPORTANT WORK!!**

***Draft letter- One page please***

Commissioner Allison Blake

Department of Children and Families

50 East State Street CC 975

Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: Letter of Commitment – New Pathways for Fathers and Families Grants

Dear Commissioner Blake,

Our organization would like to express our commitment and interest for the New Jersey Department of Children and Families’ application for the New Pathways for Fathers and Families Grants (HHS-2015-ACF-OFA-FK-0993). [Briefly describe your organization and your relationship to DCF]

We believe that we could play a role in the intervention efforts that conducted by the Department of Children and Families in {CHOOSE ONE OR MORE counties that you serve} by….

*POTENTIAL OPTIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN LETTER:*

1) Agree to participate in an Implementation Steering Committee if DCF is awarded the funding.

2) Agree to identify fathering/families to participate in fatherhood initiatives

3) Agree to partner with organizations in my county who are serving children and families to provide linkages to existing case management, parent education, and family support and social services

4) Agree to donate or provide {INSERT potential services, supports, and resources} to this intervention in {CHOOSE ONE OR MORE County}

5) Other relevant options, please specify

 Signature