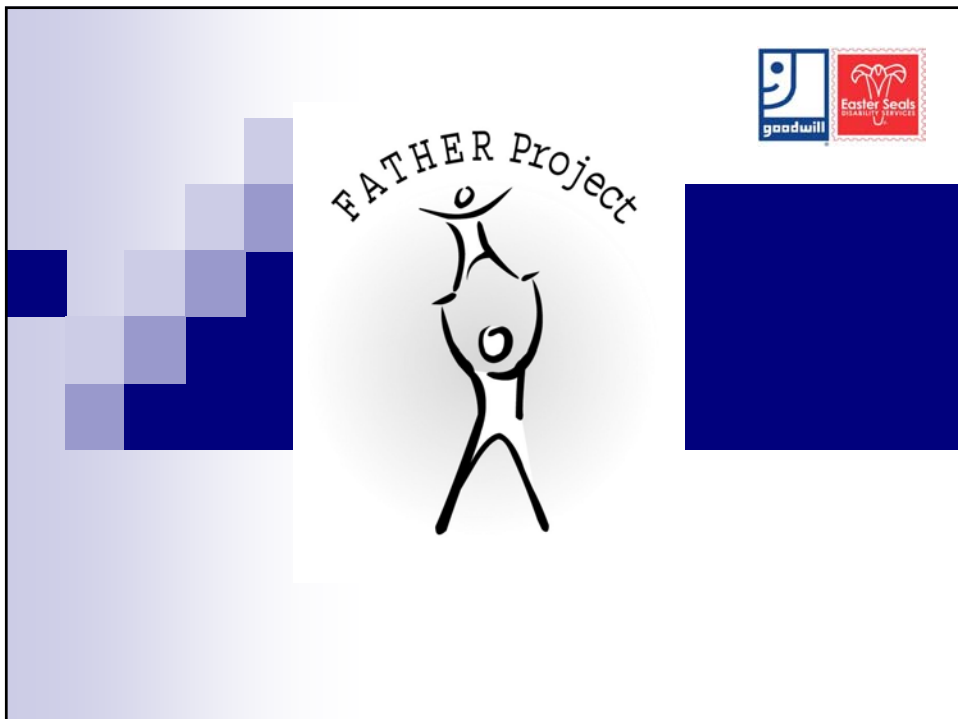


# Community Forum Sample Presentation

This PowerPoint is being made available for fatherhood programs and advocates to modify according to your needs. Use it as the basis of a community forum, a presentation to potential funders, an educational tool for local policymakers, or any other purpose. This useful tool was shared by FATHER Project staff at the Minnesota Fatherhood Summit, January 2008.



“Assisting fathers in overcoming barriers that prevent them from supporting their children economically and emotionally”



## Collaborative Partners



Hennepin County  
Child Support  
Services

## **FATHER Project: Collaborative Partners**

- Hennepin County Child Support
- Central Minnesota Legal Services
- Parents as Teachers/Meld
- African American Family Services
- Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)
- The Division of Indian Work
- Way To Grow
- Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
- William Doherty, PhD, The University of Minnesota
- Project for Pride in Living
- Minneapolis Public Schools/Adult Basic Education
- Minnesota Fathers and Families Network



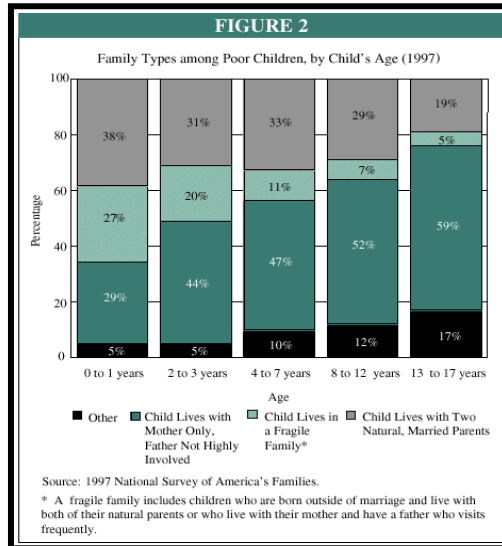
## The Crisis of Fatherhood: Low-Income Communities

- Incarceration rates are increasing for men in communities of color
- More children born to never-married parents: grew to 3 of 10 births overall
  - Among African American children: 7 of 10
  - Among Hispanic children: 4 of 10
- Individual and Family Issues: Domestic violence, alcohol/drug abuse, mental health, child welfare/child protection, and teen pregnancy

## The Crisis of Fatherhood: Socio-economic and political crises faced by young men of color

- Low educational attainment
- High rate of unemployment and under-employment
- High rate of arrest and incarceration
- Intergenerational poverty and structural racism

## The Crisis of Fatherhood: Keeping Fathers Connected



## FATHER Project: Description of Participants

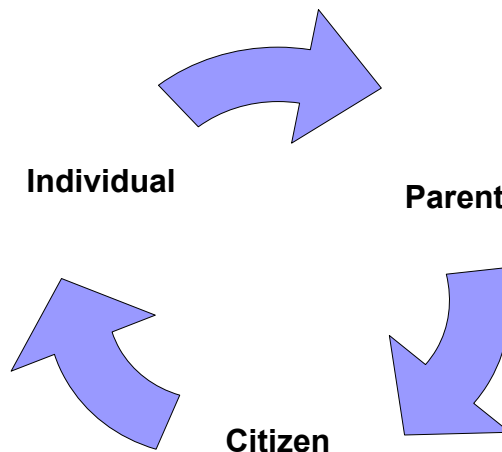
- Average Age = 28.9 Years
- Educational Barriers: 45% lack H.S. Diploma
- 50% have criminal history
- Fragile Families: All are low-income, more than 90% are non-custodial parents
- African American (65%), Latino (14%), Caucasian (12%), Native American (8%)
- Residence: Hennepin (75%), Ramsey (13%)

## The FATHER Project: Solution-Focused



Our goal is to assist fathers in overcoming the barriers that prevent them from supporting their children economically and emotionally. We believe that the positive involvement of both parents is important to the healthy development of children and increases their chances of leading a safe, happy childhood.

## FATHER Project: An Integrated Approach



## The FATHER Project

Participation is voluntary

- Community outreach
- Orientation sessions
- Individualized goals
- Supportive approach



## The FATHER Project

What services are offered?

- Intensive Case Management
- Parenting and Support Groups
- Child Support
- Legal Services
- Employment Services
- GED Services/Education
- Mental Health Services
- Father and Family Activities
- Citizen Father Project / Community Action





*A welcoming environment for dads and families...*



*Father Advocate Team: Robert Wesley, Dwight Vinson, Carmen Otero, and Ira Dixon*





In 2007, 135 fathers enrolled in the FATHER Project's intensive program.



In 2007, the FATHER Project implemented a new innovative "Play and Learn" interactive parenting group with Way To Grow and ECCE.





In 2006, FATHER Project participants, despite significant barriers to employment, paid 41% of child support owed.



***FATHER Project Parenting Group:  
Parents as Teachers / Meld***



*Family Court Judge Bruce Peterson and  
Congressman Keith Ellison*

## **Positive Father Involvement:**

Decreases of unhealthy behaviors for children and youth

- Lower rates of truancy
- Lower rates of juvenile delinquency
- Decreases in substance abuse and criminal behaviors among adolescents
- Lower frequency of disruptive behavior, depression, sadness, and dishonesty



## Positive Father Involvement:

### Increases of healthy behaviors for children and youth

- Higher levels of academic achievement
- Increases in empathy, self esteem, and creativity
- Higher verbal scores and cognitive competence



## Positive Father Involvement:

### Benefits for men and women

- Men gain heightened expression of emotion
- Men experience expanded ability for caring and nurturance
- Men demonstrate higher civic engagement
- Mother-child attachment increases
- Institutional barriers for men and women are lessened

# The FATHER Project

A vision for the future



## **Current Grant Opportunity: Federal Fatherhood Initiative ('06 – '10)**

- Federal initiative within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
- Renewable for five years; \$500,000 per year
- Partnership Expansion: Expand on proven model through strategic partnerships
- Engage increasingly diverse population of fathers
- Develop intensive child / family focus: early child development, school readiness, and co-parenting



## The FATHER Project

### Why collaborate?

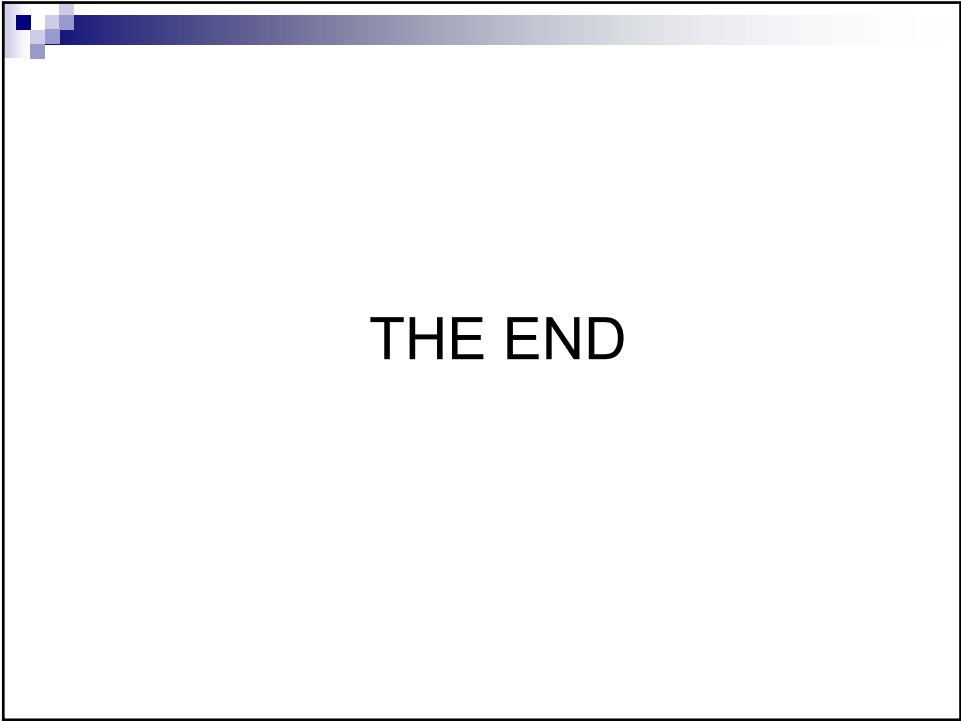
- Fatherhood is universal, but cultural and community factors matter
- Connect fatherhood field to programs and services designed to support families and children
- Capitalize on organizational expertise
- Working together we can maximize resources and impact



## FATHER Project:

### Creating a Common Vision

- Educate and train respective organizations
- Develop mutual goals
- Pursue a “Planning Grant” concept
- Forge a collaborative model together: sustain and expand services for fathers and families across Minnesota



THE END