

Greater Minnesota Fatherhood Leadership Circles



Embedding father-friendly services within existing community systems

Updated information. New deadline September 30, 2009.

Throughout 2010, the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network will support work in three communities in Greater Minnesota to increase the father-inclusiveness of local agencies and organizations. Through the Greater Minnesota Fatherhood Leadership Circles, MFFN will support community-based initiatives to examine their father-friendliness and to expand their role in supporting fathers.

MFFN seeks 3 existing initiatives (such as Thrive Initiatives, Early Childhood Initiatives, Child Abuse Prevention Councils, County Collaboratives, etc.) to lead community-wide support for healthy fatherhood. MFFN will offer in-depth technical assistance, father-friendly program assessments, and a promising practices framework for increasing the effectiveness of fatherhood programming.

Research clearly demonstrates that fathers are assets for the promotion of healthy childhood development. The institutions involved in this project will increase their capacity to serve fathers for the benefit of children, families, and communities.

Through this pilot project, MFFN seeks to increase the father-friendliness of existing program structures without creating any new projects or programs – thereby avoiding the creation of unsustainable programs that are easily influenced by the ebb and flow of funding resources.



Get your community involved

Throughout the summer of 2009, MFFN will seek applications from community initiatives. Applications are due Wednesday, September 30, 2009. In late-September, MFFN will announce the 3 communities selected for participation. The full application is included below, page 3.

For the purpose of this application, a collaborative/initiative is any ongoing group that has a history of meeting to address community-wide and/or cross-agency issues. Examples include Thrive Initiatives, Early Childhood Initiatives, Child Abuse Prevention Councils, or County Collaboratives. An initiative must include active partners from more than one agency/organization within the community.

Project timeline

September 30, 2009	Local applications are due to MFFN.
Late-October, 2009	MFFN will announce the three communities selected as Fatherhood Leadership Circles.
January – December, 2010	Fatherhood Leadership Circles will convene on a quarterly basis. Quarterly coaching opportunities will be offered by MFFN.
October 2010 – January 2011	Assess outcomes of project. Ongoing local efforts will be encouraged. Program improvements will be sustained through the continuing work of the local initiative and agency partners.

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Resources and funding

Commitment from MFFN:

- MFFN staff and/or consultants will provide leadership at four quarterly meetings of the Fatherhood Leadership Circle within your community. Each site will develop an individual program improvement plan to direct efforts around increasing father-friendliness and father-inclusiveness. Quarterly meetings will provide opportunities for a broad range of activities such as training staff, conducting community-wide father friendly assessments, educating local partners, convening policy makers, increasing parent leadership opportunities, and conducting site visits of local agencies/organizations. Staff time is funded through the Mardag Foundation, Bush Foundation, and McKnight Foundation.
- MFFN will offer quarterly coaching sessions through conference calls and/or webinars to support efforts taking place at the local level.

Commitment from local partners:

- Local partners will commit to convening quarterly meetings of the Fatherhood Leadership Circle through their existing initiative (such as Thrive Initiative, Early Childhood Initiative, Child Abuse Prevention Council, or County Collaborative, etc.).
- Local partners will work with MFFN staff/consultants to determine goals for the quarterly meetings. Local partners will be responsible for arranging meeting space, refreshments, etc. Local partners will be responsible for inviting partners to attend meetings.

Commitment for project funding:

- MFFN's portion of this project is partially funded through the Mardag Foundation, Bush Foundation, and McKnight Foundation. We thank these contributors for their support.
- Each community will be asked to provide an additional \$1,000. MFFN will send an invoice(s) to the local funding partner(s) after the first quarterly meeting.
- Local partners will be responsible for potential expenses such as local meeting space or refreshments, as appropriate.

Further information

For further information about the Greater Minnesota Fatherhood Leadership Circles, please contact Melissa Froehle at the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network, (651) 222-7432 or mfroehle@mnfathers.org.

The **Minnesota Fathers & Families Network** enhances healthy father-child relationships by promoting initiatives that inform public policy and further develop the field of fatherhood practitioners statewide. As a statewide network, MFFN works to improve the programs, policies and practices affecting fathers, especially men in fragile families and diverse communities. MFFN's community includes the broad array of Minnesota-based social service and family service organizations that work with – or potentially could serve – men in families. By working to educate family services professionals, early childhood educators, public policymakers, and the general public, MFFN seeks to influence the creation of a Minnesota that nurtures all fathers and father-figures to be strong supporters of their children, their families and their communities. Learn more at www.mnfathers.org.

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Local Partner Application

Please submit the following information as an electronic document (MS Word, preferred). The complete application must not exceed 3 pages.

Application deadline is Wednesday, September 30, 2009. Submit application to mfroehle@mnfathers.org. If you do not receive a receipt-confirmation by October 5, please call (651) 222-7432. Thank you.

1) Contact Information:

Primary contact (required): name, title, organization, address, phone, email

Secondary contact (required): name, title, organization, address, phone, email

Person completing application (if different): name, title, organization, address, phone, email

2) Local Initiative Information:

Eligible applicants include existing collaboratives/initiatives working in Greater Minnesota. Collaboratives that primarily serve the Twin Cities metro area are not eligible for the current project. (The metro area includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties. Future funding may enable MFFN to initiate Fatherhood Leadership Circles in the metro area.)

Please identify the local initiative and provide a brief description with the following information: length of existence, geographic communities served, target population(s), mission/goals, current programs/activities, and a list of active partner agencies/organizations represented.

3) Statement of Interest:

Please provide a brief description about your community's interest in this project. What do you see as gaps in service, opportunities for improvement, and assets for sustaining improvements in father-friendly services?

4) Statement of Commitment:

Each community initiative must read and agree to the commitments listed above in the section titled, "Resources and funding". Please submit a statement indicating agreement to fulfill these commitments. Please submit information about potential/actual sources for local support, both monetary and in-kind.

Thank you for your interest in embedding father-friendly services within your community systems.

MFFN thanks our project funders: Mardag Foundation, Bush Foundation, and McKnight Foundation.