

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

There are benefits for all:

Congregations can put their faith into action! By working together as a team, members not only give families a full circle of support but they also strengthen their relationships as a body within their community. Volunteers will receive specialized training to help prepare them to be effective mentors.

TANF and TANF eligible families receive a continuum of services and build support networks to gain stability and strengthen their family unit. As families build their capacity to be more self-sufficient, their progress becomes measurable.



The Government has many services for families such as transportation stipends, child care payments, professional case managers, training opportunities, and employment services as well as resources to deal with substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence and many other issues.

Often these interventions are under utilized or not successful primarily for one reason; it is very difficult to make it on your own. Families need guidance, motivation, encouragement and love. These are all crucial factors for success, however, these are the factors best offered by relatives, friends and often through connections with support groups.

Families First programs offer an array of supportive services that are designed to help strengthen families, build healthy relationships, and provide information and tools to help families become more stable .

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Families First Programs



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The mission of DHS is to empower every District resident to reach their full potential by providing meaningful connections to opportunities, economic assistance and supportive services.

FAMILIES FIRST PROGRAMS

One Congregation. One Family
Grandfamilies Support Group
Fatherhood Initiative
The READY Center

Each program is aligned with the mission of DHS and supports case management to ensure the optimum customer experience.

These programs help build the customers' capacity to become self-sufficient.

Building human capacity helps make development and progress possible.

Each program provides government and community-based resources in order to promote stability.

Customers are eligible to receive work participation hours and other incentives.



ONECONGREGATION.ONEFAMILY

One Congregation. One Family (OCOF) partners with the local faith community to provide encouragement, mentoring and life-skills coaching to TANF and TANF eligible families.

Mentors offer assistance with budgeting, education and employment resources, tutoring, household management, nutrition and job preparation.

Families and mentors meet at least twice a month and maintain regular contact as they build meaningful relationships that promote achievement and provide support and motivation for families to meet their goals.



FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE (FHI)

Fathers need support to improve their relationships with their children, improve parenting skills/practices, and help overcome barriers that prevent them from being effective parents. Fathers meet regularly to share their experiences and receive/give motivation and encouragement from other fathers who have similar situations. Facilitated workshops address topics including "Discipline and Children's Growth", "Working with Mom and Co-Parenting" and many more. The Fatherhood Initiative works in partnership with the DC Commission on Fathers, Men and Boys and the TANF Employment Program (TEP).

GRANDFAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP

Millions of grandparents and family members are serving as unexpected primary caregivers throughout the United States. These "grandfamilies" find themselves suddenly responsible for the day-to-day care of young children and need the support of others to help ease the demands of their everyday lives. DHS will work in partnership with other government agencies and community-based organizations to provide information and resources for grandparents who are caring for minor children who receive TANF benefits.



Resources to Empower and Develop You (The READY Center)

Men and women who are returning from correctional facilities are provided the opportunity to be connected to much needed support services and benefits including SNAP E & T (food stamps) as they transition back into society. Already challenged with the fact of a "record," the added challenge of navigating new technologies, new workforce demands and requirements, and a reluctant hiring base, building employment and training support for returning citizens is both vital for their individual well-being as well as the well-being of their families. It is also vital to the health of society.