



Healthy Start TA & Support Center

Fatherhood Newsletter

*Strengthening Healthy Start to
support family health and well-being*



Healthy Start Fatherhood Newsletter

A Message from the Director of the TA & Support Center

Greetings Healthy Start Fatherhood Practitioners:

I am more than excited to greet you in this edition of the Healthy Start TA & Support Center's (TASC) fatherhood newsletter! It is hard to believe that we are in the fourth year of this five-year funding cycle of Healthy Start. Healthy Start grantees are working incredibly hard and achieving great success, especially during the COVID pandemic. We have seen incredible innovations as Healthy Start grantees pivoted to accommodate the needs of participants in your respective communities.



It's been two years and Healthy Start programs have demonstrated the resilience that this program has come to be known for over 30 years. **"Congratulations" to each of you!**

As we just closed out the month of June - which was Men's Health Month and when we celebrated Father's Day - it's a perfect time for us to celebrate the tremendous work that each of you have been doing to build fatherhood work within Healthy Start. This is the first time in MCH history that fatherhood has been a required component of an MCH program. So, the fatherhood work within Healthy Start is not only exciting but ground-breaking. Each of you has the opportunity to demonstrate what executing fatherhood within Healthy Start looks like.

The offerings from TASC have been designed to assist you in accomplishing the Healthy Start fatherhood enrollment goals and benchmarks for fathers/partners which include supporting prenatal appointments and classes, post-natal appointments and classes, and reading to children. Many of you have taken advantage of the fatherhood trainings, Learning Academy, and conferences we've provided over the last year. And for those of you who may be new or didn't have a chance to take advantage of those offerings, please visit the [Healthy Start EPIC website](#) to access them.

As we head into this program year, we intend to focus on fatherhood evaluation and continue supporting you in the areas of your need. We are excited to introduce you to **Lazaro Lugo, our new Fatherhood Consultant** here at TASC. Laz is new to the NICHQ team but not new to fatherhood work and will prove to be a great resource for you as well. He is assisting TASC to expand our work with fatherhood coordinators to ensure we achieve the goal of demonstrating the value of fatherhood within the Healthy Start program. We know that you will welcome him.



This edition of the fatherhood newsletter is filled with lots of resources, which we hope you will take advantage of! Healthy Start programs continue to do great work and we applaud your successes. As we are in the final two years of this funding cycle, we want you to know that we are here to support your work. **TASC is here to offer you any assistance you might need.** Reach out to us as you need to.

As a former project director, I can imagine the pride that many Healthy Start project directors are having right about now as they witness the tremendous work that their staff is doing around fatherhood. Fatherhood within Healthy Start is about inclusion, connection, and engagement. Here's to you all showing the nation what it looks like operationally! Here's to lifting up fathers! Thank you for your work, Healthy Start!

For Our Fathers,

Kenn L. Harris, Executive Director & Engagement Lead
Healthy Start TA & Support Center
National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ)

In Case You Missed It...

Building a Successful Fatherhood Program Training

TASC and the National Healthy Start Association hosted the third part of the Building a Successful Fatherhood Program Training. This training was designed to support Healthy Start programs in developing, strengthening, and enhancing their fatherhood programs. The training helps grantees assess their fatherhood work and build from that point to ensure success in achieving the Healthy Start enrollment goals. The third part of the training focused on “Fortifying and Sustaining Fatherhood for the Future.”

Check out the links below to access all the training materials!

- [Part 1 Recording & Materials](#)
- [Part 2 Recording & Materials](#)
- [Part 3 Recording & Materials](#) (NEW!)

Fatherhood Cohort 2022

Our most recent Fatherhood Cohort wrapped up in May with a total of 24 participants, including our wonderful co-leads – **Avis Files** from Brothers United at Pathway Inc. in the County of Lucas and **Norman Goldston** from the Catholic Charities - Archdiocese of Hartford!

The goal of the Fatherhood Cohort is to convene Healthy Start grantees – who are prepared to and interested in enhancing and strengthening their fatherhood work – to create shared best practices for involving, connecting, and engaging fathers along the MCH continuum and achieving the goal of enrolling 100 fathers in the HS program. This year’s Fatherhood Cohort’s objectives were the following: explore best practices for collaborating and engaging community partners, and identify strategies to recruit and retain Healthy Start fathers.

Interested in learning what happens in cohorts or potentially joining one? Join us at our **2022 Cohort Showcase on Tuesday, July 26th** to hear from our cohort members where they’ll share their experiences, lessons learned, and progress made since joining!

More information will be made available soon [here](#)!

Celebrating Fathers!



NPCL International Fatherhood Conference 2022

The TASC partnered with National Partnership for Community Leadership (NPCL) to sponsor **89 Healthy Start Fatherhood staff** to attend the virtual NPCL International Fatherhood Conference on June 8-9, 2022!

NPCL celebrated its 24 years of service and the legacy and contributions of women to the fatherhood field. Top-notch speakers and fatherhood leaders in policy, research, and practice will inspire and encourage conference attendees to reach higher heights in working with fathers and families. Among these phenomenal speakers were **Healthy Start's very own, Avis Files, and Kenn Harris!**



Following the conference, the TA & Support Center held space to debrief the conference at a [Networking Café](#) on June 23rd.

The Networking Café was saturated with insightful engagement from each person's experience compared to past conferences, to highlights from the abundance of workshops hosted during the two-day conference. Workshops included topics such as, "Engaging and working with African American fathers: Strategies and Lessons," "Forgiveness Therapy: An Essential Ingredient in Addressing Parent Relationship Issues," and "Fatherhood Learning Academy: A Capacity-building Strategy for Fatherhood Programs." Dr. Jeffrey Johnson and his staff delivered another epic conference! HS grantees expressed their gratitude and appreciation as the conference centered on the pivotal contributions women have made in the field of fatherhood programming and other related work.

"I found it to be equally as exciting, refreshing, and educational as I did the first time I attended in 2018."

- Art Terry, Fatherhood Coordinator from Healthy Start, Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA)

The Equity Table Fatherhood in the Age of Mass Incarceration



TASC held the third session of The Equity Table – a series of roundtable conversations that explore the racism and inequities communities of color face in the United States, today and historically. Specifically, this series focuses on the persistent disparities seen among Black and Native communities, both in maternal and child health outcomes and beyond. The series features a roundtable discussion with subject matter experts who bring their ideas and reflections to “The Table.” Sessions will explore major topics impacting the health and well-being of people of color (e.g., mass incarceration, voting rights).

On June 7th, TASC invited New Orleans Healthy Start’s **Kevin Sherman**, and experts **Dr. Art James** and The Sentencing Project’s **Marc Mauer** to the Equity Table: Fatherhood in the Age of Mass Incarceration. This discussion highlighted the different levels of impact that mass incarceration has had on fathers, families, and communities.

Watch the third session [here](#)!

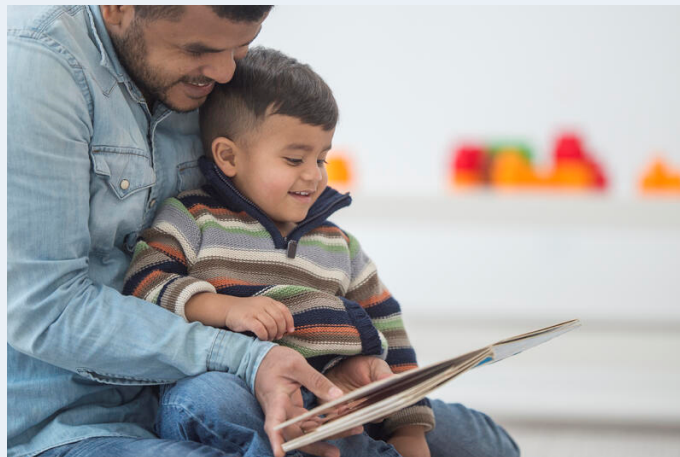
Fatherhood Talk Tuesday **Creating Balance in Black Family Health Equity: Black Families Matter**



TASC held a special Fatherhood Talk Tuesday on Tuesday, June 14 as we celebrated and uplifted fathers in honor of Men's Health Month and Father's Day! We featured the "Fatherhood Discussion" session from our [ROOTT Learning Academy](#) by Deans Jessica Roach and Dorian Wingard from [Restoring Our Own Through Transformation \(ROOTT\)](#).

Watch the [recording of this session](#) as we continue to highlight the unique and dynamic role of fathers, and share stories and resources across HS sites.

Training Opportunities & Events



24/7 Dads Training & Master Training

The TASC is excited to announce that we have partnered with National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) to offer their 24/7 Dads© Webinar Training to Healthy Start grantees on **Wednesday, July 6 from 12-5 p.m. ET.**



24/7 Dads© is an evidence-based fatherhood program used by hundreds of organizations across the nation to improve the knowledge, behavior, and skills of dads of all races, religions, and demographics. The program is built on the basis that fathers can be nurturers, and for men, nurturing is a learned skill. This unique set of programs is designed to equip fathers with the self-awareness, compassion, and sense of responsibility that every good parent needs - building the man first and the father second. Training attendees will learn more about the program and how to use it with their Healthy Start clients.

Register for 24/7 Dads Training

Already completed the 24/7 Dads Training? You're ready to become a Master Trainer!

TASC has also partnered with NFI to provide their Master Trainer course on **Wednesday, July 13th from 1-6 p.m. ET!** This course will train those who have completed the 24/7 Dads Training to become a trainer, themselves!

Register for the Master Training

Fatherhood Talk Tuesday

TASC reconvened its monthly Fatherhood Talk Tuesday webinars with Mr. Doug Edwards from [Real Dads Forever](#). Mr. Edwards is presenting a three-part series on *Fatherhood and Equity and its connection to maternal and infant mortality*.

[Register](#) for the final part of the series on **July 12 from 3-4:40 p.m. ET.**

Catch up with the series before the next, [here!](#)



We'd love to feature your HS Site at the next Fatherhood Talk Tuesday.

Sign up to present at Fatherhood Talk Tuesday!

Moynihan Institute Webinar



TASC makes it a priority to lift up those who are doing exceptional work with fathers, families, and their communities. One of these many organizations is the [Moynihan Institute for Research and Policy](#). Derived from The Negro Family: The Case For National Action, commonly known as the Moynihan Report, the Moynihan Institute for Research and Policy aims to provide descriptive and explanatory research and policy positions on issues that impact Black families from the perspective of fathers. TASC has partnered with [Kenneth Braswell](#), Chief Executive Officer of Fathers Incorporated, to offer a webinar discussing the Moynihan Institute, its history, impact, and ways Healthy Start grantees can use its findings to influence their work.

Join us at this informative talk on Thursday, July 20th at 1 pm ET. Register [here!](#)

Paternal Prenatal Early Attachment Training



The TASC is excited to partner with Real Dads Forever again to provide their **Paternal Prenatal Early Attachment two-day training to Healthy Start dads on Saturday, August 6, and Saturday, August 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET.** The Paternal Prenatal Early Attachment Curriculum is designed to help fathers strengthen and enhance their support of mothers and children during pregnancy and after birth. The curriculum is intentionally and consistently infused with suggestions to cultivate empathy, emotional understanding, and caring. Practical ideas to educate fathers will be explored in an interactive fashion providing them with tools to navigate the perinatal experience and the first 1,000 days of their child's life with success.

Healthy Start dads will be led through the following topics each session:

Saturday, August 6

- The Value of a Father in the Life of his Child
- Who am I? Where am I from?
- What Happened and Why?
- Relationship Roller-Coaster

Saturday, August 13

- Getting Ready - Your Emotions, Home, and Money
- Fathering and Co-Parenting
- A Set-Up for Success, The First 1,000 Days
- Celebration! – You are Ready for Work

Share this with your Healthy Start dads and encourage them to [register](#)!

#HealthyStartStrong

We want to hear from you!

Our team at the Healthy Start TA & Support Center would love to highlight the work of Healthy Start projects in upcoming newsletters, as part of our #HealthyStartStrong initiative. This spotlight can include new improvement methods, developments, resources, or initiatives taken that you'd like to share.

If you'd like to share, please email us at healthystart@nichq.org!

Fatherhood 1:1 TA

Noticing some areas for improvement in your fatherhood work? Your project may benefit from further individualized support. The Healthy Start TA & Support Center (TASC) offers 1:1 TA to all grantees on a wide array of topics, including fatherhood!

Your request will be acknowledged within two business days by email by the TASC. The TASC team will work with you to understand your request in greater detail and determine the most efficient way to complete your request and develop a TA workplan together while keeping your Project Director and Project Officer in the loop.



**Submit a TA
Request**

Feel free to email us at healthystart@nichq.org with questions on 1:1 TA support.

Stay Connected!

Please encourage your fellow Healthy Start staff members to subscribe to the Healthy Start email distribution list! Once subscribed, they will receive these weekly update emails and the monthly newsletter, which include information about upcoming webinars, training opportunities, and more.

To subscribe, please email healthystart@nichq.org.



Have questions? Either respond to this email or contact the TA & Support Center at healthystart@nichq.org

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