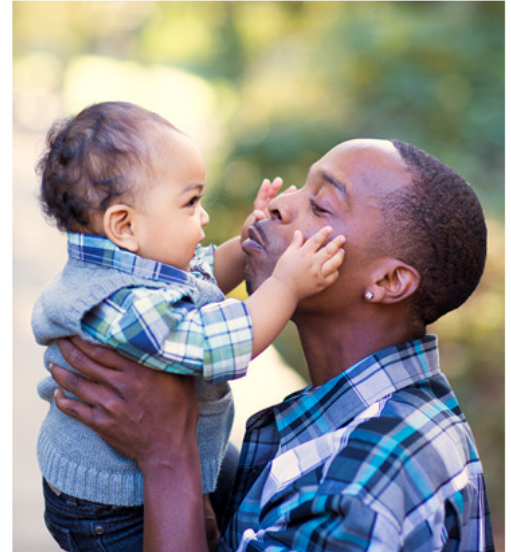




## ALAMEDA COUNTY FATHERS CORPS

### BACKGROUND

The Alameda County Fathers Corps launched in August 2013 as a collaboration between First 5 Alameda County and the Alameda County Public Health Department, and now includes the Alameda County Social Services Agency and Department of Child Support Services. The Fathers Corps is committed to the principle that helping to increase father involvement in children's lives will significantly advance the goal of strengthening families in Alameda County. Research clearly demonstrates that children who grow up without a father actively involved in their lives experience significantly higher rates of depression, alcohol and drug abuse, failure in school, teen pregnancy, criminal activity and incarceration, adult poverty, and other lifelong challenges. Conversely, children with nurturing, constructively engaged fathers are far more likely to live happier, healthier, and more successful lives. The Fathers Corps helps male service providers focus on factors specific to the needs of men and the challenges they face in fulfilling their role as fathers.



### MODEL

The Fathers Corps provides a 9-month learning community for male service providers working with families in Alameda County. Providers meet monthly to receive training on a range of topics including Child Development, Temperament, Maternal and Paternal Depression, and School Readiness. During each training, providers have an opportunity to discuss how the training content relates to serving fathers in Alameda County. The learning community also provides members an opportunity to network and share resources with each other. Members who attend at least seven of the ten Fathers Corps trainings receive an Alameda County Fathers Corps Father Engagement Specialist certificate. Father Engagement Mentor certificates are awarded to returning members who attend seven of the ten trainings.

### GOALS

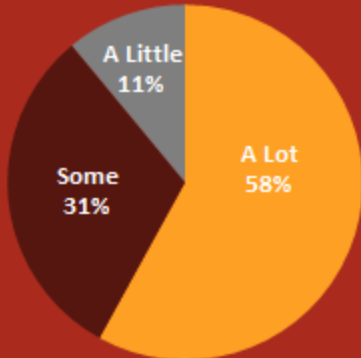
1. Fathers Corps participants will have an increased knowledge of environmental, nutritional, and social and emotional factors affecting the healthy development of children birth to 5 years and an increased awareness of father specific services
2. Fathers Corps participants will identify and adopt a set of father friendly principles and support their integration into existing family service programs and community based agencies
3. The Fathers Corps will advocate for governmental and community-based programs/agencies to be more father friendly
4. The Fathers Corps will create a pool of male Father Engagement Specialists to serve as resources for F5AC and ACPHD Home Visiting programs and other service programs targeting families in the County

## YEAR 1 HIGHLIGHTS

### 35 MALE PROVIDERS FROM 21 AGENCIES PARTICIPATED IN 2013-14 WITH 20 AWARDED CERTIFICATES

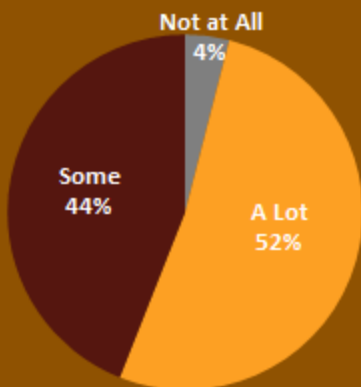
- A Better Way
- Alameda County Community Development Agency
- Healthy Homes
- Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
- Alameda County Probation Department
- Alameda County Public Health Department
- Alameda County Social Services Agency
- Berkeley Unified School District
- Brighter Beginnings
- Centerforce
- City of Fremont Youth & Family Services
- Family Support Services of the Bay Area
- LifeLong Medical Care
- Marcus Foster Educational Institute
- Positive Communication Practices
- REACH
- Special Start
- Through the Looking Glass
- UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oak
- United Way of the Bay Area
- Village Connect
- Youth Alive

**89%** of those surveyed reported that the Fathers Corps helped them to be a more knowledgeable, skillful and/or engaged provider or supervisor



**65%** reported that the Fathers Corps helped them plan for, or inspired them to start, a new program or service for fathers

**96%** of those surveyed reported that they were helped to be a better father, grandparent, or caregiver



"I am more knowledgeable and passionate about the urgent need to engage and help our male youth and fathers, and now have new resources/tools at my disposal to use and share with others." **Fathers Corps member**

"Through the work of...the Fathers Corps, many lives are and will...be...changed in a very positive way. But remember—this is only the beginning!" **Fathers Corps member**

### SPECIAL EVENTS

The Fathers Corps sponsored two special events:

- A screening of the film documentary, "Fatherhood 101," attended by over 500 people
- A Daddy and Me day at Children's Fairyland, attended by approximately 40 fathers and 50 children

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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