

National Responsible Fatherhood Capacity-Building Initiative

Request for Proposals

Deadline: March 6, 2007

INTRODUCTION

Since 1994, National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) has worked to improve the well being of children by increasing the proportion of children growing up with involved, responsible, and committed fathers. It has done so by:

- Educating and inspiring all Americans—especially fathers—through public awareness campaigns, careful research, and providing other resources;
- Equipping and developing leaders of national, state, and community fatherhood initiatives through curricula, training, and technical assistance; and
- Engaging every sector of society through strategic alliances and partnerships.

OPPORTUNITY

To this end, with support from the US Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Family Assistance, NFI announces availability of 20 awards, each in the amount of \$25,000, for local community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and other grassroots fatherhood agencies. Through a competitive bidding process, top applicants will receive funds for the specific purpose of *increasing capacity* to develop their fatherhood programming, and to improve their financial sustainability by becoming more familiar with—and better qualified to receive—federal or private philanthropic support.

Some examples of fatherhood programs could include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Parenting education programs for new and expecting fathers, teen fathers, fathers in need of general parenting skills, or fathers with special needs children.
2. Programs providing marriage counseling, relationship counseling and/or divorce counseling.
3. Support groups for stay-at-home and/or single fathers.
4. Programs for incarcerated fathers.
5. Programs providing court-mandated fathering skills training.
6. Job skills training and/or job placement programs that include a fatherhood component.

Awardees must use their funds to send two staff members to participate in an intensive, weeklong “Certification College,” led by fatherhood experts from NFI, Caliber Associates (an ICF International Company), and private consultants who have past government experience. Awardees will also receive follow-up technical assistance from NFI and Caliber Associates, including phone consultations, e-mail follow-up, occasional web-based seminars and other resources. Finally, selected organizations will participate

in a two-day mini-conference, including assessment and evaluation that measures their improvement.

Funds may not be used for direct programming costs, but will instead be granted on a reimbursement basis for each awardee's leadership development, program development, organizational development, and connections with the community (including outreach to local media, public officials, and Board Development). In other words, these grants are designed to help build the capacity of grassroots organizations—including both community-based and faith-based organizations—enabling awardees to build their organizational capacity, to more effectively deliver existing or future services promoting responsible fatherhood in local communities.

Staff members from selected organizations will receive technical assistance from NFI, to improve their programs and cultivate “best practices” in their leadership development, organizational structure, programming trends and community connections.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants must not be receiving any other funds from current Promoting Responsible Fatherhood programming, sponsored by the Office of Family Assistance at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Proposals are due to NFI by 5:00 PM on Friday, March 6, 2007. They may be uploaded via this online application, or sent directly to:

National Fatherhood Initiative
Attention: Ave M. Mulhern
Executive Coordinator
National Responsible Fatherhood Capacity-Building Initiative
1716 Crestview Ave.
Willow Grove, PA 19090

GRANT BENEFITS

To support the future delivery of responsible fatherhood services at the local level, awardees will receive:

- ♣ Formal training and technical assistance to strengthen site capacity, in:
 - program development
 - leadership development
 - organizational development, and
 - community connections

- ♣ Participation by two staff leaders in a national Certification College for Responsible Fatherhood, to assess program strengths, and to begin working toward targeted capacity improvement in two of the four key areas of fatherhood capacity-building noted above.
- ♣ Up to 40 total hours of follow-up technical assistance, over a period of eight months (April-November 2007).
- ♣ \$25,000 in reimbursable financial support for each organization, including technical assistance, conferences and other resources.
- ♣ In the final month of the initiative, up to \$2,000 in additional resources, to purchase resources from the National Responsible Fatherhood Capacity-Building Initiative Resource Center.

PROCESS

1. Grant-seekers may upload their applications for responsible fatherhood capacity-building grants, or submit paper applications using this application form.
2. Proposals must be received at NFI **by 5 PM on March 6, 2007. No exceptions.**
3. Awardees, carefully selected by an independent review panel, will be notified of their status by April 6, 2007.
4. Two staff leaders from each selected organization will be required to participate in the fully funded Certification College, on May 21-25, 2007 (location and further conference details to be announced).

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. As noted, applicants must not be receiving any current funding from the Office of Family Assistance's Promoting Responsible Fatherhood programs.
2. Applicants may be community-based, faith-based, non-profit or for-profit organizations. Applicants are not required to have 501(c)3 status, nor to identify with a sponsoring organization with 501(c)3 status—but they must either have established fatherhood programs, or else have plans to develop such initiatives, with the goal of supporting responsible fatherhood in their communities.
3. Whenever possible, applicant organizations should draw on proven approaches in their programming, and they must serve a diversity of clients (e.g., not just one religious congregation). In other words, applicants must provide services that are open to all eligible persons, regardless of potential participants' race, gender, age, religion, or disabilities.

4. Any coalition-partnering organizations should indicate a desire and intention to promote responsible fatherhood by working together as a group to make a comprehensive community impact.
5. Each coalition partner will need to work collaboratively with both NFI and Caliber to accept technical assistance and commit to the changes needed to enable wider and more effective community impact.
6. Especially during the Certification College and follow-up mini-conference, selected organizations must participate in evaluation efforts, which may require data about service participants, organizational structure and program implementation.
7. Applicants must include an **Assurance for Domestic Violence Consultation** form, signed by each organization head or coalition representative, indicating that the awardees and any coalition partners will accept technical assistance from one or more domestic violence experts, as assigned by NFI in developing action plans. Applicants must also state in writing that funds received through this award will be used solely for approved capacity-building activities that address responsible fatherhood—e.g., leadership development, program development, organizational development and connections with the community (see attachment).

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Answer each of the following questions in brief, but clear detail. Please number your responses:
 1. **(30 points)** Provide information about the mission of your organization, and evidence that personnel associated with carrying out the purpose of this capacity-building grant would be qualified and able to do so. Also, briefly describe the demographic group your program targets or will target (including any relevant information about age, race, sex, socioeconomic status, geographic area, marital status, educational level, etc.), and the recruitment strategy you use or will use to reach your targeted demographic group.
 2. **(15 points)** Explain how your organization's (or coalition's) current services and institutional resources support—or could support—the following key activities:
 - Responsible Fatherhood

- Healthy Marriage
 - Economic Stability
3. **(10 points)** What organizational qualifications do you have that are or would be useful in the promotion of responsible fatherhood?
 4. **(10 points)** If at all, how do you currently deliver programs and services relative to the promotion of responsible fatherhood?
 5. **(20 points)** How might technical assistance from NFI and ICF Caliber strengthen your organization, enhance the quality of your programs and services, and help you develop or sustain programs/services in the future?
 6. **(15 points)** How do you foresee your organization sustaining itself in the next several years? The next 5-10 years? Please incorporate the challenges currently facing your organization or coalition as well as potential challenges down the road.
- Proposal should not exceed a total of five pages, excluding any letters of support (no more than two, please).
 - Proposals will ideally be uploaded electronically; if not, they should be typed, double-spaced, and single-sided on standard 8½” x 11” paper. (Please do not use a binder, folder, report cover, or any kind of binding on the proposal; use a staple or paper clip if necessary.)
 - With your proposal, please read, sign and submit the Assurance for Domestic Violence Consultation form.
 - **Deadline: Completed proposals MUST BE RECEIVED by National Fatherhood Initiative no later than 5 PM on March 6, 2007.**

QUESTIONS? *** Call or write to **Ave Mulhern**, Executive Coordinator for the National Responsible Fatherhood Capacity-Building Initiative, at 215-659-2022 or amulhern@fatherhood.org , or write to **Josh Good**, Director of the National Responsible Fatherhood Capacity-Building Initiative, at jgood@fatherhood.org .