

Deadline for Submissions:

Sunday October 7, 2018 at Midnight EST

Introduction

National Fatherhood Initiative® (NFI) seeks applications from organizations that want to partner with NFI to expand the evidence-based 24/7 Dad® program within the community or communities they serve in select Southeastern states. NFI seeks applications from organizations that:

1. Currently use the 24/7 Dad® program and that want to serve more dads with it, and
2. Do not currently use the 24/7 Dad® program and that want to implement it for the first time.

Background

NFI's mission is to transform organizations and communities by equipping them to intentionally and proactively engage fathers in their children's lives. NFI builds the capacity of community-based organizations that seek to begin or enhance fatherhood programs to benefit fathers, families, and especially children in their communities.

Our services build capacity through father-friendly assessments, skills training, technical assistance, strategic planning, and community mobilization around fatherhood. A vital aspect of this capacity-building effort has been the expansion of NFI's evidence-based 24/7 Dad® program, such that the program has become the most widely used fathering program in the country among community-based organizations.

Independent third-party evaluations have shown the 24/7 Dad® program increases three assets, in diverse racial and geographic populations, that are critical to effective fathering:

- 1. Increased awareness and knowledge in how to be a good father,**
- 2. Development of self-efficacy in the skills that mark a good father, and**
- 3. A high-quality relationship with the mother of a father's children (i.e. a good co-parenting relationship).**

As a result of the 24/7 Dad® program's popularity and effectiveness, **NFI has acquired funding to expand the use of the program in select Southeastern states.**

Opportunity for Organizations

NFI will equip select community-based organizations in this part of the country to run the 24/7 Dad® program. (Refer to the Eligibility section that follows for a list of the states in which organizations must operate.)

NFI will use this funding to train 60 facilitators (staff and/or volunteers) from a maximum of 30 organizations to facilitate the 24/7 Dad® program. NFI will provide the selected organizations with **free training and material resources** to effectively run the 24/7 Dad® program (i.e. curriculum kits, fathering handbooks, additional web-based training, and support materials) to a mix of organizations that either:

1. Currently use the 24/7 Dad® program and have the desire and capacity to expand it, and
2. Organizations that do not currently use the 24/7 Dad® program and have the desire and capacity to implement the program for the first time.

NFI **will not provide funds** to hire staff, pay stipends to volunteers, or for use in acquiring or using other resources to run the program (e.g. a facility in which to facilitate groups).

To equip the selected organizations to run the 24/7 Dad® program, NFI will:

- Conduct four training institutes on the 24/7 Dad® program, likely one each in the Birmingham, Atlanta, Tampa, and Nashville **areas**. (NFI will not determine the exact locations for the training institutes until after NFI selects organizations to participate.) Each training institute will equip approximately 15 facilitators (a total of 60 facilitators across the four institutes). **NFI will train a minimum of two and maximum of four facilitators per organization selected. For organizations that currently use the 24/7 Dad® program, these facilitators may currently facilitate the program; however, they must have the capacity to facilitate an additional group(s) in addition to those they currently facilitate.**
- Require the trained facilitators to complete two web-based trainings: NFI's Father Engagement Certificate™ and the Effective Program Facilitation Certificate™. Acquiring these two certificates will increase the ability of facilitators to effectively expand or implement the 24/7 Dad® program. In addition, NFI will provide the selected organizations with additional skill-building resources **free of charge** for distribution to the dads who participate in the 24/7 Dad® program (e.g. print materials on effective co-

parenting). NFI will also provide **free** on-demand, customized technical assistance via phone and email to facilitators as they implement the 24/7 Dad® program.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants may be any community-based entity that serves families (e.g. nonprofit, faith-based organization, reentry facility, school, military installation, etc.) in the following states:

- **Alabama**
- **Florida**
- **Georgia**
- **Kentucky**
- **Missouri**
- **North Carolina**
- **South Carolina**
- **Tennessee**
- **West Virginia**

Organizations that serve communities in other states considered to be part of the Southeastern U.S. are not eligible.

Applicants in these states **must have** the following capacities and abilities.

- The capacity to begin running additional 24/7 Dad® groups (if already offering 24/7 Dad®) or new 24/7 Dad® groups (if not currently using 24/7 Dad®) no later than January 1, 2019. This deadline will be approximately three weeks after attending the 24/7 Dad® training institute.
- The capacity to serve **a minimum of 30** dads in the 24/7 Dad® program by August 16, 2019. (For organizations that will expand the 24/7 Dad® program, these 30 dads are in addition to the number of dads they would normally serve with the program.) If NFI trains two facilitators from an organization, for example, and each facilitator trained runs a fatherhood group, each facilitator would have to reach/serve a minimum of 15 dads by August 16, 2019.
- The ability to implement the 24/7 Dad® program with fidelity (e.g. run all 12 sessions of

the program) for at least two cycles.

- The ability to cover costs for travel, meals, and lodging for up to four staff to attend the training. (To reduce this cost for awardee organizations, NFI will attempt to group selected organizations into training institutes near each of the four cities mentioned earlier so that the training location is within a reasonable driving distance. Nevertheless, attending the training institute might require a one-or two-night stay in a hotel with associated per diem.) Once again, NFI will not provide funds to cover expenses—other than the aforementioned curriculum and support materials—to run the program.
- The ability to have facilitators trained on 24/7 Dad® also complete NFI's two web-based fatherhood training certificates (online, on-demand, and self-paced) prior to attending the 24/7 Dad® training institute. (A facilitator can complete each online training certificate in as little as one day.)
- The ability to report on outcome measures associated with NFI's 24/7 Dad® program grant by pre-determined dates (e.g. number of dads reached and children affected by the number of dads reached). **NFI has designed a simple online form to ease submission of interim and final reports.**
- If selected, an additional pre and post assessment component may be required as a condition of the award.

Application Deadline

Applications are due to NFI by **Midnight Eastern Standard Time on Sunday, October 7, 2018.**

Selection Process and Emphasis

After receipt and review of applications to determine whether organizations are eligible for selection, NFI staff will:

- Discard applications from organizations that fail to meet the criteria specified in the Application Criteria section of this RFA.
- Review eligible applications and select organizations to participate in the project. NFI plans to select organizations by October 19, 2018, and inform the selected organizations no later than the week of October 22, 2018.

In selecting organizations to participate, NFI will seek a balance between organizations currently using and not using the program. Nevertheless, we will place an emphasis on selecting those with applications, regardless of current program use, that most convincingly show the organization has:

- The capacity to start running groups by January 1, 2019.
- The ability to reach/serve at least 30 dads by August 16, 2019.
- Facilitators (NFI will train) **who are already on staff or who already volunteer** for the organization.

In determining your organization's ability and capacity to meet the two deadlines above, keep in mind that selected organizations will have 10 months after selection to launch their plan to expand or implement the program (e.g. recruit dads to participate and, if necessary, hire additional facilitators) before the deadline to serve at least 30 dads, and, at a minimum, 8 and 1/2 months to serve at least 30 dads by the January 1 deadline to start groups.

Please note that NFI will not inform organizations not selected to partner in this endeavor of the reason they were not selected (i.e. application deemed ineligible or not as strong as those of selected organizations).

Questions

If you have any questions about this RFA, please email NFI Program Implementation Specialist at amulhern@fatherhood.org. Do not email questions to anyone else on NFI's staff. To ensure the best chance of a same-day response, the ideal time to email your questions is Monday – Friday between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

If you have read and agree to all of the above, and are in an eligible state, we welcome your application for the 24/7 Dad® Expansion Project.

Visit <https://www.fatherhood.org/247dad-expansion-2018> to apply.

