

# The \$154 Billion Man

The Economic Argument for Investing in Fathers



## THE STUDY OVERVIEW (METHODOLOGY)



### OBJECTIVE

Update NFI's 2006 analysis to determine the federal cost of supporting single mother-headed (father-absent) households in 2018.



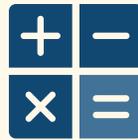
### 14-PROGRAM SCOPE

Expenditures across 14 major federal assistance programs, including EITC, Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF.



### DATA SOURCES

Federal budget expenditures combined with SIPP participation data to identify program usage by family structure.



### THE CALCULATION

Identified the fraction of participants in father-absent households and applied that multiplier to total program costs.

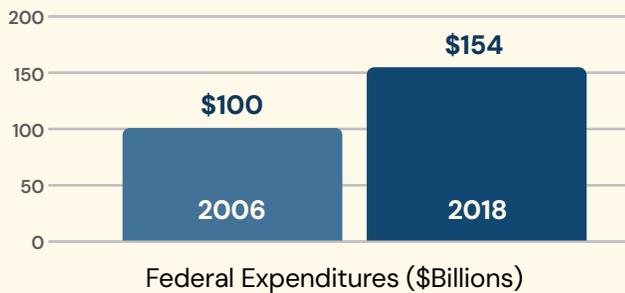
## THE ECONOMIC IMPACT (RESULTS)

# \$154.2 Billion

Federal expenditures for father-absent households across 14 programs in 2018

**54.5%** increase in real dollars vs. \$100B in 2006

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES — 2006 VS. 2018



**30.8%** of annual \$500B federal spend to reduce childhood poverty

FOUR MOST COSTLY PROGRAMS (2018)



## THE PATH FORWARD (RECOMMENDATIONS)



### SUPPORT FOR ALL FAMILIES

Invest in policies and programs to help reduce the costs and stress associated with childrearing.



### EMPOWER FATHERS ECONOMICALLY

Invest in programs and policies that improve fathers' economic position.



### ADDRESS MARKET INEQUITIES

Amend policies to remedy persistent labor market disparities faced by low-income fathers of color.



### STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS

Expand programs enhancing father involvement & coparenting quality — a key predictor of fathers' sustained involvement.



### ENHANCE DATA & RESEARCH

Improve household composition data collection across federal programs to better assess participant needs and maximize impact.

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This is a conservative estimate that does not account for state level match funding for these programs, expenditures in other relevant programs that lack data on household composition, and the costs of reduced productivity, and increased crime for children who spend their childhood living in poverty.



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