
THE FATHER FACTOR

A Critical Link in Building Strong Families and Communities

GOOD+ Foundation and Ascend at the Aspen Institute

November 29, 2018

The Aspen Institute
2300 N Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20037

Smith Conference Room (8th Floor)

Goals:

- Share research and ideas, highlight promising practice, and explore policy opportunities to increase the engagement of both fathers with their children and social service organizations with fathers; and
- Raise awareness about the importance of fathers in helping children and families achieve their full potential.

8:30 am – 9:00 am **Continental Breakfast and Networking**

9:00 am – 9:30 am **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

Welcome and setting the stage: why a focus on fathers and why now?

- Eric Motley, Executive Vice President, Aspen Institute
- Anne Mosle, Vice President, Aspen Institute, and Executive Director, Ascend at the Aspen Institute
- Jessica Seinfeld, President + Founder, GOOD+ Foundation
- Jerry Seinfeld, GOOD+ Fatherhood Leadership Council Chair

9:30 am – 10:45 am **Illuminating the Bright Spots: Fathers and the programs that serve them**

What are the hallmarks of engaging fathers effectively? Hear from fathers and programs that work with fathers about their lessons and recommendations for serving fathers and families.

- Jesus Benitez, Mentor Coordinator, CUNY Graduate Center
- Raheem Brooks, Assistant Director, CUNY Fatherhood Academy
- Jason Gortney, Director of the Office of Policy and Innovation, Children's Home Society of Washington
- Michael Nester, Father
- Alan-Michael Graves, Director of the Fatherhood Initiative, GOOD+ Foundation (moderator)

10:45 am – 11:15 am Doing the Best I Can: Fatherhood in our Communities

- Kathryn Edin, Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University

11:15 am – 11:30 am Break and networking

11:30 am – 12:45 pm Building a Positive Policy Environment

Visionary leaders understand that many of our public systems and services were not designed for 21st century families. Learn how these leaders are redefining how they view families, and in particular, the role of fathers, and what that means for public policy and systems.

Panel Introduction: Clarence Carter, Director of the Office of Family Assistance and the Acting Director of the Office of Community Services, Administration for Children and Families

- Reggie Bicha, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Human Services
- Kim Dent, Executive Director, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood / Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Joe Jones, Founder, President & CEO, Center for Urban Families
- Raquel Hatter, Deputy Director, Human Services Program, The Kresge Foundation (Moderator)

12:45 pm – 1:45 pm Break and Networking Lunch

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm Afternoon Breakout Workshops: *These breakout sessions are designed to enable peer-to-peer learning and dialogue. Each session begins with remarks from field innovators before opening up into a discussion with other leaders in the room.*

Fatherhood in the Earliest Years

Penner Conference Room (8th Floor)

Program and public leaders across the country are redefining how they work with families. In this interactive conversation, learn how these leaders are innovating on their work and share your expertise, questions, and recommendations.

- Kevin Bremond, Fathers Corps Program Administrator, First 5 Alameda County
- Benilda Samuels, Chief Operating Officer, Nurse-Family Partnership
- Darius Tandon, Associate Professor of Medical Social Sciences, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
- Lisa Stewart, Chief Strategy Officer, National Head Start Association (moderator)

Breadwinners and Caregivers

Martin Luther King, Jr. Conference Room (7th Floor)

Building education and career pathways for fathers is an essential part of building family stability. From adult education to workforce pathways, understand how models are adapting to serve fathers and families more holistically.

- Betsy Delgado, Vice President of Mission & Education Initiatives, Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana, Inc.
- Sam Schaeffer, Executive Director & CEO, Center for Employment Opportunities
- Derek Silvers, Fatherhood Program Coordinator, STRIVE International
- Daniel Torres, STRIVE Graduate

Building Opportunity for Re-Entering Dads

Smith Conference Room (8th Floor)

Far too many families and communities are affected by the criminal justice system. In this conversation we focus on strategies that work and understanding the challenges in building relationships and opportunities for fathers and their families as they re-enter communities.

- Gregg Croteau, Executive Director, UTEC, Inc.
- Jerry Tello, Founder/Director of Training & Capacity Building, National Compadres Network
- Mary Weaver, Executive Director, Friends Outside in Los Angeles County/Dad's Back!
- Robin McDonald, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families (moderator)

Family Narratives: Mothers, Fathers, and Perceptions of Family

Gildenhorn Conference Room (7th Floor)

Public perception around families, how families define themselves, and the parenting roles of fathers, mothers, and other caregivers is shaped by multiple and contrasting narratives. In this session, we explore divergent views and discuss how to shape a narrative that elevates the importance of mothers AND fathers in their children's lives.

- Gary Barker, President and CEO, Promundo
- Monique Rizer, Executive Director, Washington, DC region, Urban Alliance
- Howard Stevenson, Clinical Psychologist, Human Development & Quantitative Methods, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education and Executive Director, Racial Empowerment Collaborative

3:20 pm – 3:50 pm Closing Keynote

Introduction: Anne Mosle, Vice President, Aspen Institute

- Reverend Dr. Raphael Gamaliel Warnock, Senior Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church

3:50 pm – 4:00 pm Thank you and Closing