We look forward to talking with you shortly.

Welcome!

We invite you to share with other attendees in the chat your:

- Name
- Affiliation
- Location
Introductory Webinar
August 12, 2020
Housekeeping

Technical Difficulties

Questions For Discussion
Dina Israel, Kriti Jain & Katie Pahigiamis
What is your primary role within the fatherhood field?
Agenda

• Why SIRF
• Study overview and goals
• SIRF in action
• Questions: Study overview
• Nomination and selection process
• Questions: Nomination process
• Next steps
Agenda

• Why SIRF
  • Study overview and goals
  • SIRF in action
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Why SIRF is Important

Fatherhood programs aim to enhance:

• Father-child interactions
• Parents’ relationships
• Parents’ capacity to parent as a team and
• Fathers’ economic stability*

*Please refer to the Fatherhood FIRE FOA for the required program focus areas for federally funded programs
Why SIRF is important

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- Fathers’ economic stability

Programs face implementation challenges
Why SIRF is important

Fatherhood programs aim to enhance:
- Father-child interactions
- Parents' relationships
- Parents' capacity to parent as a team
- Fathers' economic stability

Programs face implementation challenges

SIRF works closely with programs and fathers to understand ways to overcome these hurdles
Perspectives from the Field*

…When we're dealing with adult learners, what are you giving them that meets their needs [and] not just your need as a program?

When asked the question of what made [fathers] keep coming, it was learning things about parenting that no one ever took the time to say, “Here's why you are specifically important…”

Realistically, if you just show a little compassion, a little care and you put [fathers'] desires and needs first; [...] that will go a long way, much further than any educational level or [incentives] that you can offer.

*The quotes included here come from interviews conducted in April 2020 with program staff involved in the Building Bridges and Bonds project.
Why Participate?

- Financial support
- Program support
- Deep data analysis
- Professional development
- Peer learning community
- Usable and broadly applicable lessons
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Oscar Cerna
SIRF will allow us to collaboratively develop and test promising ideas to overcome program implementation barriers.
SIRF at a Glance

- Using learning cycles to identify promising solutions to program implementation challenges
- Seeking up to 10 partner programs
- Funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
- Conducted by MDRC, in partnership with MEF Associates, Insight Policy Research, leaders in the field, and programs like yours
Study Goals

**Partner**
- With programs to conduct rapid learning cycles

**Strengthen**
- Programs
- Research practices

**Assess**
- Whether new approaches increase
  - Recruitment
  - Engagement
  - Retention
Interdisciplinary Team

- Fathers
- Researchers
- Subject matter experts
- Program staff
- Policy-makers & funders
The SIRF Approach

Identify challenges programs face

Select SIRF programs

Partner on learning activities

Support strong implementation

Share lessons with the field
The SIRF Approach

- Identify challenges programs face
- Select SIRF programs
- Partner on learning cycle activities
- Support strong implementation
- Share lessons with the field
The SIRF Approach

1. Identify challenges programs face
2. Select SIRF programs
3. Partner on learning cycle activities
4. Support strong implementation
5. Share lessons with the field
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The SIRF Approach

- Identify challenges programs face
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- Share lessons with the field
## Potential SIRF Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identify and meet fathers’ needs</th>
<th><strong>Example:</strong> Enhance initial assessment of needs – e.g. modify materials or processes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foster peer support &amp; networks</td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> Use peers as system navigators to help address participation barriers, referrals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop staff capacity</td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> Enhance group-based supervision and peer learning techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliver flexible services</td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> Provide alternative formats for program delivery (e.g. virtual or one-on-one services)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruit fathers to participate</td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> Use behavioral science principles to update messaging</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Of the program strategies we mentioned:

- Identify and meet fathers’ needs
- Foster peer support & networks
- Develop staff capacity
- Deliver flexible services
- Recruit fathers to participate

Which do you view as most relevant for your program or the programs you work with most often?
SIRF Timeline

August-October 2020
Nomination process

October-December 2020
Discussions with interested programs

January-March 2021
Site selection and study planning

April 2021-March 2022
Learning cycles implemented
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The SIRF Learning Cycle

- Learn
- Do
- Reflect
Learn

- Create SIRF implementation plan
- Identify and train staff on the SIRF strategy

Do

- Make it happen! Implement SIRF strategy with a program improvement process

Reflect

- Analyze data and other information to know what worked and what didn’t
- Adjust approach and begin new cycle
Learn
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CQI vs. Local Evaluations vs. SIRF

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)
- Ongoing efforts to assess and improve programs/services and metrics
- Performed by all programs throughout grant period*

Local Evaluations*
- Designed by programs and evaluation partners
- May be experimental or non-, depending on funding level and approach selected

SIRF
- Federal evaluation, participation based on selection process
- Defined cycles of learning during study period

*This applies to federal Fatherhood FIRE grant recipients. Please refer to the FOA for details on grant requirements in these areas. Fatherhood programs who are not grant recipients may also participate in SIRF.
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Dona Wharton-Fields
SIRF Nomination Process

- We invite nominations from now until October 9, 2020 at 5pm ET

- Any fatherhood program is welcome to be nominated

Letters of Nomination

- Letters of nomination may include information such as:
  - Organizational goals
  - Upcoming program changes
  - Responsiveness to current national and community contexts
  - Questions for the study team
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Thank you!

Additional questions? Contact:
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