



Nomination Process

SIRF is seeking nominations (including self nominations) for participation in a new, innovative study to support program implementation.

Has the nominated organization’s staff tried to figure out how to increase the number of fathers that enroll in, attend, and complete its program?

SIRF is an opportunity to gain insights into why fathers enroll and participate in the organization’s program. Using “rapid cycle learning” techniques, SIRF will co-design and test strategies to increase attendance, in collaboration with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

SIRF offers guidance on how to use organizational program data to quickly assess if its program strategies are working and troubleshoot when they are not.

Interested in submitting a nomination? Please go to the next page for instructions!

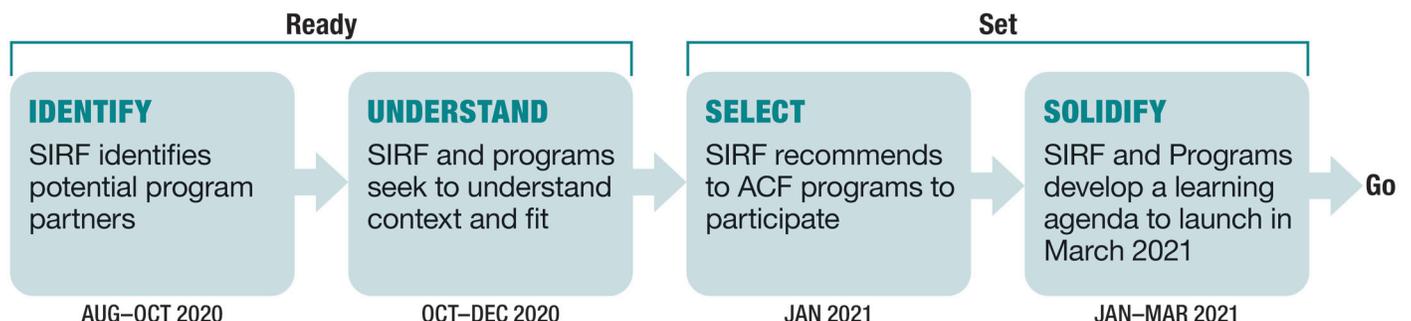
Who can participate in SIRF?

Any fatherhood program interested in learning more about how to improve its program is welcome to be nominated, whether or not the organization’s program becomes a Family-focused, Interconnected, Resilient, and Essential (Fatherhood FIRE) ACF grantee.

Why SIRF?

- **Financial support** to enable new or existing staff to fully engage in this learning opportunity
- **Program support** as the organization designs and tests new service delivery strategies and strengthens its program
- **Deep data analysis** to fully understand the organization’s data to inform program design
- **Professional development** including new training and program management tools for staff
- **Peer learning community** to share resources and lessons and connect with other fatherhood programs
- **Usable and broadly applicable lessons** to strengthen the field and inform future federal evaluations

What is the SIRF selection process?



How do I submit a SIRF nomination?

The SIRF team is now soliciting nominations, including self-nominations, for fatherhood programs to participate in the project, which begins in early 2021. These nominations will provide us with an opportunity to get to know the organizations' programs, staff, and participants, as well as identify study partners.

- Submit the organization's nomination to SIRF@mdrc.org with no more than 1,000 words describing the organization's interest (see suggested topics below).
- Nominations will be accepted between now and October 9, 2020, at 5:00pm ET.
- Questions are welcome. There will be a webinar [https://mdrc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IGr6XssYS3KuyAP2Hb0SoQ] for prospective SIRF participants from 2-3:30 p.m. on August 12. You can also submit questions to SIRF@mdrc.org.

What are topics of interest for a nomination?

As we review nominations, the SIRF team would value learning about the following areas:

- **Organizational goals as they relate to SIRF priorities**
For example:
 - The organization's interest in exploring and solving issues related to recruitment, engagement, and retention;
 - An aspect of recruitment, engagement and retention the organization would want to strengthen or a question related to those areas that it wants to investigate more deeply.
- **Upcoming program changes**
For example:
 - Anything new the organization's program is planning to try soon.
- **Responsiveness to current national and community contexts**
For example:
 - How the organization's program has adapted or will adapt to serve fathers during COVID-19;
 - How the organization's program has adapted or will adapt as a result of recent protests against racial injustice and how fathers have been impacted;
 - How the organization's program has responded to other national or community crises or systemic challenges.
- **Questions you have for us**

What else should I know?

- In addition to the organization's submitted response, our team will review available ACF data.
- Responses may be shared with ACF but will not be associated with program names.
- We look forward to hearing from you!