

Quick Stats

Agency	Start Date	Number Served Annually	Annual Budget
City University of New York	March 2012	80	\$400,000

Problem Statement

Across our nation, more than 24 million children are growing up in homes without a father. In New York City, approximately 33 percent of children under the age of 18 are growing up in fatherless households. This crisis disproportionately impacts New York City's black and Latino children. Fifty-one percent of black and 46 percent of Latino children in New York City under the age of 18 are being raised in fatherless households, compared to 11 percent of white children.¹

Currently, throughout the country there exist few, if any, efforts to connect fathers to educational and employment opportunities on a college campuses.

Research and Evidence

Historically, women have headed the majority of single parent households. As a result, the social service safety net and programs meant to strengthen families have disproportionately focused resources on mothers. Fathers play a critical role, however, and the research has demonstrated that fathers' involvement in the lives of their children promotes positive life outcomes not only for themselves but for their children and families. A primary reason non-custodial fathers do not engage in the lives of their children is their inability to contribute financial support to their children. When fathers are unemployed or underemployed they are less likely to engage with their children due to their inability to contribute financially.

Furthermore, when men are offered opportunities to pursue the educational opportunities that would facilitate economic stability they are less likely to take advantage of or remain in those programs because they are not connected to employment. These factors speak to the need for an intervention that connects education, employment and fatherhood services.

Program Description

- The CUNY Fatherhood Academy at LaGuardia Community College strengthens fathers and families and promotes responsible fatherhood and economic stability by connecting young fathers to services on a college campus. Specifically, participating fathers:
 - Participate in pre-employment workshops to improve their soft skills and qualify for part-time entry-level or better employment
 - Develop a plan to achieve the education and/or training needed to achieve their long-term employment and career goals
 - Improve computer and academic literacy with the goal of advancing least one step along the academic continuum
 - Prepare for the GED exam or to apply to college
 - Develop personally through a series of group activities that will address men's health, self-motivation, conflict resolution, and financial literacy
 - Initiate or increase engagement with their children

Program Implementation

Program launched in March 2012 with the first cohort participating from March, 2012 through June, 2014.

CUNY Fatherhood Academy is operated by LaGuardia Community College.

<p>Target Population</p>	<p>Participants are young fathers aged 18-24.</p> <p>As of July 2013, the program participant demographics are: Male: 100% Black: 23% Hispanic*: 14%</p> <p>*Black and Hispanic are reported as mutually exclusive demographic indicators.</p>
<p>Expected Outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of fathers will complete an Individual Development Plan that will help guide the delivery of hard and soft skill acquisition as well as development of realistic short and long term goals for advancement. • 35% fathers will obtain unsubsidized employment for at least 20 hours per week. 25% fathers will obtain subsidized employment or participate in an unpaid work experience for at least 15 hours per week. • 15% fathers will achieve an educational milestone (improve 1 level on the TABE or earn a GED). • 25% fathers will also be matched with volunteer mentors identified through CUNY's existing programs. Peer mentoring will also be encouraged and supported. • 45% fathers will complete at least 75% of the parenting modules. The parenting modules will include information about child development from infancy through young adulthood and appropriate relationship-building strategies for each stage. • 40% fathers will report that they have initiated or increased engagement with their children as evidenced by self-reporting surveys.
<p>FY 13 Q1-Q3 Performance Data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58 out of 77 (75%) participants complete an Individual Development Plan • 26 out of 77 (17%) participants were placed in unsubsidized employment • 39 out of 77 (51%) participants were placed in subsidized jobs or internships • 25 out of 77 (32%) participants earned a GED or High School Diploma • 13 out of 77 (17%) participants were accepted into college

ⁱ US Census Bureau 2011