



Dear Colleagues and Fellow Providers,

We are writing to formally invite you to become a member of the Alameda County Fathers Corps, a county-wide team of male service providers trained to help strengthen families by fostering constructive engagement of fathers in the care and upbringing of their children. Members who join us for Year Four will commit to actively participating in a nine-month training series that will include 10 trainings and one acknowledgement/celebration in June 2017. We are pursuing this work with firm commitment to the mission of the Fathers Corps, i.e., to promote and support fathers and father figures to be meaningfully engaged with their children and families, and to advocate for family service providers to provide father friendly services and to assist fathers in strengthening their parenting skills.

**The first Fathers Corps Training will take place Friday, September 16, 2016, 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm
at First 5 Alameda County, 1115 Atlantic Avenue, Alameda.**

To register, please [click here](#). For questions about registration, contact:
Charla Black-Edwards at (510)227-6976 or Charla.Black-Edwards@first5alameda.org

BACKGROUND

The Alameda County Fathers Corps, established in 2013, is a collaboration between First 5 Alameda County, Alameda County Public Health Department, and Alameda County Social Services. The Fathers Corps is designed to increase involvement of fathers in their children's lives by focusing on factors specific to the needs of men and the challenges they face in fulfilling their role as fathers. Since June 2014, the Fathers Corps has graduated from its learning community an energetic team of 49 male Father Engagement Specialists and 15 male Father Engagement Mentors. After participating, Fathers Corps members reported work-related improvements in a number of areas including increased knowledge of child development; feeling more supported in their work with fathers of young children; and feeling more connected to other male providers in the community.

THE MODEL

The Fathers Corps provides free training opportunities to male service providers on a range of topics such as Fathers' Role in Child Development, Trauma's Impact on Brain Development, Parental Rights and Responsibilities, Working with Teen Fathers and other topics essential to effective father involvement. Trainings are from 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm and will begin September 16, 2016 and conclude June 16, 2017. The principal objective of the trainings is to support male providers who serve fathers by discussing how the training content relates to their work with fathers. The trainings also are designed to inspire providers to become advocates for supporting the needs of fathers in Alameda County. Providers will help strengthen families by fostering constructive engagement of fathers in the care and upbringing of their children and raising the awareness of the need for their agencies to have programs in place to serve fathers. Upon completion of the training series, participants will have a greater understanding of early childhood development and early care and education, an in-depth knowledge of the communities they serve, and greater awareness of successful father engagement strategies and of services and programs that support fathers and the development of young children. Ideally, Fathers Corps members will be available to county and community-based programs to provide support with supporting and engaging fathers and families in Alameda County. Family service programs such as Help Me Grow, Alameda County Healthy Start Initiative, Special Start, and other Alameda County family-centered programs can request the support of Fathers Corps members when working with families.

In addition to participating in professional development on early childhood topics, participants are expected to make good faith efforts to work with their home agencies to adopt and implement the [Father Friendly Principles](#).

New Fathers Corps participants who attend at least seven of the ten Fathers Corps trainings will receive an Alameda County Fathers Corps **Father Engagement Specialist** certificate. Returning Fathers Corps members who attend at least seven of the ten Fathers Corps trainings will receive an Alameda County Fathers Corps **Father Engagement Mentor** certificate. Members returning for their third and fourth years will have the opportunity to expand their roles within the Fathers Corps.

We are extremely excited by the potential impact of this work. Research shows irrefutably that children who grow up without a father actively involved in their lives experience significantly higher rates of depression, alcohol and drug abuse, failure in school, teen pregnancy, criminal activity and incarceration, adult poverty and other lifelong challenges. Conversely, children with constructively engaged fathers are far more likely to live happier, healthier and more successful lives.

We urge you to join us for Year Four of the Fathers Corps and commit yourself to its mission. We cannot think of a more immediate impact on strengthening Alameda County families than fostering the increased involvement of fathers in their children’s lives.

All trainings are from 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm; lunch is provided. Below, please see the tentative training calendar.

Date	Training Topic
9/16/2016	Father Friendly Principles; Fathers Corp members’ role as agents of change.
10/21/2016	A Father’s Role in Child Development & Understanding Temperament
11/18/2016	Trauma and Its Impact on Brain Development / Handling Your Emotions as a Father (Affect Co-regulation)
12/16/2016	Expulsion/Suspension of Children of Color / How to Advocate for Your Child at School
1/13/2017	Coming of Age – The Importance of Culture, Ritual & Community Acknowledgement (includes raising a child with high self-esteem)
1/27/2017	Fathers Corps Retreat - Presentation: The Mask You Live In (Masculinity Development & Respect for Women)
2/17/2017	Understanding Gang Culture & Strategies to Keep Youth Safe
3/17/2017	Learning, Practicing and Modeling Conflict Resolution and Forgiveness at Home and School
4/21/2017	Co-Parenting When the Relationship is Fractured (includes navigating new romances and co-parenting)
5/19/2017	Rebuilding the Village: Community Resilience, Cultural Competence and Nutrition
6/16/2017	Celebration

Sincerely,

Kevin Bremond
 Administrator, First 5 Alameda County
 Co-Founder, Alameda County Fathers Corps

Gary Thompson
 Manager, Family Health Services Fatherhood Initiative
 Co-Founder, Alameda County Fathers Corps

Please visit our webpage for more information about the [Alameda County Fathers Corps](#) or contact Kevin Bremond at (510) 227-6932 or Kevin.Bremond@First5Alameda.org

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