



Milwaukee  
Fatherhood  
Initiative

*"By, For & About Fathers"*

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Community and Economic Development  
Committee

February 18, 2013

# Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative

## Mission Statement

This mission of the Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative (MFI) is to increase the number of children with involved, responsible, and committed fathers.

# Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative

## Background

- ▶ MFI launched by Mayor Barrett, and many other partners, in 2005
- ▶ Legacy supporters include:
  - \*City of Milwaukee
  - \*Housing Authority of City of Milwaukee
  - \*Greater Milwaukee Foundation
  - \*Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
  - \*Diverse coalition of individuals and community organizations

# Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative

## The Need

- ▶ More than half of Milwaukee's children are being raised in homes by single mothers
- ▶ MFI is breaking down barriers that stand in the way of responsible fatherhood
- ▶ Father absence is strongly linked to poverty, teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, abuse, suicide, and other social and economic ills

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## Impact

- ▶ Thanks to collaborative efforts of many, the MFI has made a positive impact
- ▶ MFI has connected thousands of fathers to employment, education, driver's license recovery, child support, and men's health services
- ▶ MFI is strengthening families and providing hope in the lives of young people

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## Impact (Continued)

- ▶ **Annual summit and workshops:** 5,000+ men have attended annual summits and workshops since 2006.
- ▶ **Driver's license recovery programs:** Have restored driving privileges for thousands of fathers to improve their employability.
- ▶ **Child support enforcement programs:** Have helped 1,200+ fathers reduce child support arrears.
- ▶ **Education and employment:** 99% fathers surveyed at a recent MFI Job Fair ranked the event as "outstanding."
- ▶ **Men's health programs:** Have linked hundreds of fathers to health resources and screenings to help fathers become healthier and more effective dads.

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MFI aligned with Department of Administration.

- ▶ DOA providing strategic direction and leadership to assist MFI with carrying out its mission and build program capacity
- ▶ DOA playing lead role in leveraging public/private resources to support MFI and strengthen network

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In 2013, MFI will focus on four goals. They include:

- Strengthen the MFI governance and infrastructure
- Engage, equip, and empower fathers by connecting them to new/existing resources that promote responsible fatherhood
- Strengthen MFI data collection, performance measurement, and reporting systems
- Develop a funding strategy to ensure the future sustainability of the MFI



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Targeted Outreach – Special emphasis will be placed on:

- Housing Authority of City of Milwaukee (HACM) serves 10,000+ families
  - MFI priority sites are Westlawn and Parklawn
- Department of City Development (DCD) manages hundreds of occupied housing units
  - Residents occupying them can benefit from MFI

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Case Management System: Web-based, state of art. Allows staff to enter, track data on service requests, run status reports (open, closed, etc.)

## Key Fields (Demographic Information)

- Name
- Gender
- Birth Date
- Race/Ethnicity
- Contact Information
- Marital Status
- Number of Children/Mothers
- Legal Status
- Employment Status

# Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative

## Case Management System (Continued)

### Key Fields (Service Information by Type)

- Employment
- Job Training
- Health
- Driver's license recovery
- Child support
- Etc.

Success Story: Last week, system flagged MFI about a father's birthday. Staff called to say "Happy Birthday." Dad told staff his driver's license was reinstated. Service request closed.

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## Other Updates

- Establishment of new Advisory Council – being formed to raise MFI visibility/standing
- Annual MFI Summit – topic of men’s health will be the focus to build on last year’s efforts
- Council budget action – MFI funds will be used to support operations and programming