

August 2023

CCFF NEWSLETTER

Commonwealth Center For Fathers & Families



Casting The Vision

David Cozart

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we move swiftly towards the end of Summer 2023. I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of our partners, participants, constituents, and others for the great amount of support being extended to us as we continue to build this collective effort to lift fatherhood SO THAT children, families, and communities thrive.

We are proud of a strong start that has yielded many outputs. We fully believe that we will see great outcomes as we continue the work. We also know that we can only do so with the continued growth of our network of partnerships and resources. We hope this newsletter not only helps grow this network but also allows you to stay in tune with the many good works that are occurring across our Commonwealth.

As you receive and read about updates, we invite you to find a place to join in the work. We welcome your inquiries on how you can do so. We also welcome your suggestions on how we can add value to all the good work each of you is already doing on a daily basis. In closing, again, I say thank you to you all. We are excited beyond words for the work that is occurring and the work that will occur as we move ahead. Together, we will do great things for our children and families across this great state. Join in and stay tuned. The other half has not been told!

Be well, and all the best.

David Cozart,
Chief Visionary Officer

P.S. We hope to see you at the **2023 Kentucky Fatherhood Summit on October 17th and 18th** Details are included in the newsletter.



CCFF STAFF



Sarah Kintopf
Administrative Assistant



Tyler Moore
Director of Programs



Kicking Off New KYDAD Academy Cohort

We are excited to announce the launch of another cohort of the KYDAD Academy. KYDAD Academy is a 6-week, 10-module training intensive covering a range of topics, such as civic co-parenting, civic engagement, effective communication, advocacy, men’s mental health, and more.

Instructional sessions are led by content and lived-experience experts, researchers, community organizers, and advocates for responsible fatherhood. Last year’s inaugural group was considered a great success, having served 19 participants from 14 different counties. This year, CCFF received 192 applications and painstakingly selected 13 participants representing 13 different counties.

The group got off to a great start on August 8th and is slated to end with a completion ceremony on September 16th. Join us in saluting and sending well-wishes to this year’s participants, listed below with their counties of representation.



Ronnie Williams Jr.
Communications & Outreach Specialist



Kimberly Taylor
Training Coordinator



Tim Small
Financial Consultant

Meet Our 2023 KYDAD Academy Recipients

TYLER BARRET
Pulaski County

ANTONIO D'ALESSANDRO
Christian County

THADDEUS LIGON
Hardin County

CODY TANNER
Daviness County

ZACH BRADSHAW
Rowan County

JASON FLEMING
Union County

DWAN MACK
Fayette County

ALAN TOWNSLEY
Knox County

TARÉ WILSON
Anderson County

JUSTIN CROSBY
Jefferson County

BAILEY HUFF
Russell County

ROBERT MUSICK
Pike County

ANTHONY WILLIAMS
Meade County

DADDY DATA

- ▶ When fathers are involved in their child's education, the children perform better in school, learn more, and exhibit healthier behavior.
- ▶ Studies show that fathers who are involved with their kids have better health, drink alcohol less, and have lower substance abuse.
- ▶ Approximately 63% of youth suicides in the U.S. are kids who live in a home without a father.
- ▶ About 24 million children in America, or 1 out of every 3, live in homes without a father.
- ▶ There are about 152 million males in the United States. Of these, 70.1 million (46%) are fathers
- ▶ Source: (Fact Retriever Kevin Lehnardt 2017)





CCFF Spotlight

National Fatherhood Initiative®

Help us congratulate our Chief Visionary Officer, Mr. David Cozart, on his invitation and appointment to the National Father Initiative (NFI) Board of Directors.

Founded in 1994, NFI is the preeminent national organization that impacts children and families by equipping organizations and communities with evidence-based programs, resources, training, and services to be intentionally and proactively father-inclusive. "National Fatherhood Initiative® (NFI) is honored and blessed to welcome Chief Visionary Officer David Cozart of the Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families to NFI's Board of Directors.

In joining the NFI family, Mr. Cozart brings a wealth of experience in delivering programs for fathers and building capacity in human service organizations to serve dads more effectively. His presence on our board represents NFI's commitment to ensuring that the voices of our partners are heard in the development of our strategic goals and tactical priorities in pursuit of our mission." (Christopher Brown, president, National Fatherhood Initiative®) It is felt that this appointment not only strengthens our CCFF network but also becomes an asset to the great fatherhood work occurring across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Partnership Highlights



CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families (CCFF) knows it is only as strong as its partnerships. As such, we will highlight a partner in each edition. We begin with a longstanding, multi-faceted partner—the **Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)**. CHFS is arguably the largest single entity focusing on the health, safety, and well-being of children and families in the Commonwealth. They provide support, resources, and assistance to the citizens of Kentucky in the most difficult times and circumstances through a vast, statewide network. Amid all they are doing to ensure continuous quality improvement of their systems, CHFS has committed to keeping fatherhood and all it means for healthy life outcomes top of mind. CCFF has the pleasure of working with many departments across the Cabinet, including but not limited to: community-based services, Income Support, Childcare, Finance, Public Health, and more. Thank you to all CHFS administration, staff, and others associated for acknowledging the importance of responsible father engagement and allowing CCFF to lock arms with you in the effort to enhance the lives of children and families through the lifting of the institution of fatherhood. You are appreciated!

KENTUCKY 2023 FATHERHOOD SUMMIT IS NEAR!

We are excited to share that for the fifth consecutive year, the Cabinet for Health and Families Services (CHFS), the Department for Income Support (DIS), the Child Support Enforcement Division, in partnership with the Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families, and other collaborating agencies are joining forces to convene the 2023 Kentucky Fatherhood Summit on October 17–18, 2023. This year's theme and key message is **"FATHERHOOD IS FOR GOOD!"**

KENTUCKY FATHERHOOD SUMMIT 2023

"Fatherhood IS For Good"

SAVE THE DATE OCTOBER 17-18

THE CAMPBELL HOUSE
LEXINGTON, KY

Commonwealth Center for Fathers & Families

TEAM KENTUCKY
CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

CCFF programming and projects are funded, in part, by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services contract #PON2 736 230000936.

Please be sure to Connect and grow with us on our social media pages.

