



Commonwealth
Center for
**Fathers &
Families**

FATHERHOOD ENGAGEMENT MINI-GRANT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

2026



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Background and Purpose

Children with involved fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior, avoid high-risk behaviors, and demonstrate many other attributes of well-being. The Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families (CCFF) seeks partners across the state to raise the visibility of the importance of fatherhood, to create father-friendly environments, and to increase services and resources to fathers in order to improve child outcomes and enhance families and communities. Key partnerships may include but are not limited to: faith-based organizations, CHFS/DCBS, prevention agencies/efforts, schools, and others. With partners like you, CCFF desires to build a strong statewide network by offering grants to establish or expand projects or services; to increase programming capacity; and to inform advocacy work that will address responsible fatherhood, child well-being and child-maltreatment prevention, economic stability (employment), co-parenting and healthy relationships. Together we can encourage fathers and create pathways for them to become involved in their children's lives economically, emotionally, and as a protective factor.

During the implementation period, grantees will be offered opportunities to network together and encouraged to participate in capacity building webinars and conferences all with the singular goal of creating a collaborative environment for success for fathers. CCFF staff will work one-on-one and collectively with organizations to strengthen and improve project implementation or revision as needed.

CCFF encourages grant awardees to refer fathers from their region to participate in our KYDAD Academy. KYDAD Academy is a personal development fellowship designed exclusively for fathers well positioned (stable) and willing to serve beyond their families in elevating the importance of fatherhood. It is a bi-weekly, 5-week program with compensation designed to equip fathers to be ambassadors and role models, advocates, and leaders in their families and respective communities. Cohorts will run twice annually, starting in the Spring and Summer. (Visit our website www.cffky.org for more information.)

This funding opportunity is made possible by contract #PON2 736 2400001680 with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Awardees will be considered subrecipients and as such are subject to compliance with state and federal funding regulations.

Eligibility Requirements

Applications may be submitted by a Kentucky-based non-profit 501(c)3, faith-based organizations (with non-profit status), or agencies acting as the fiscal sponsor for an individual or community collaborative. Institutions of higher education, including universities and colleges, are not eligible to apply for funding.

All applicants will be required to show proof of 501(c)3 status. Applicants that are partnering with a fiscal sponsor must provide fiscal sponsor's information (i.e. proof of 501(c)3) prior to being awarded/approved for grant funding. Grant funds may not be used to cover administrative fees or

indirect payments assessed by fiscal sponsors.

Applicants that are part of a larger system or institution (e.g., a public school district or similar entity) that requires additional oversight for the approval and receipt of funds must provide verification of the funding approval process prior to the award of any grant funds.

Grant Submission, Implementation and Reporting Timeline

February 2, 2026	<i>Request for Proposals Open</i>
February 4 & 6, 2026	<i>Q&A Webinars (only need to attend one)</i>
February 4 (Wednesday) CCFF RFP Q&A Webinar: 3:00 PM Eastern Time:	
Zoom Link for February 4	
February 6 (Friday) CCFF RFP Q&A Webinar: 12:30 PM Eastern Time:	
Zoom Link for February 6	
March 16, 2026	<i>Proposal Submission Deadline</i>
April 6, 2026	<i>Final Awards Announced</i>
April 7, 2026	<i>Period of Performance Begins</i>
December 11, 2026	<i>Project Completion Deadline</i>
December 18, 2026	<i>Final Project Report Deadline</i>

Grant Awards

CCFF will award grants at two different Tiers under this RFP. The amounts and qualifications are:

Tier 1: Proposals for one-time or short-term activities, events, programs, or partnerships that meet the Proposal Guidelines below. Repeat applicants at this level will receive higher scrutiny. CCFF encourages grantees to conduct events in June, highlighting Father's Day and/or highlight fatherhood related prevention approaches. **Funding up to \$5,000.**

Tier 2: Proposals that (1) host at least one event (recruitment event, resource fair, Father's Day event, prevention/public awareness, etc.), and (2) deliver an ongoing evidenced-based curriculum and/or a battery of services to a group of fathers in accordance with the Proposal Guidelines below. **Funding up to \$10,000.**

Award Distribution: Upon receiving signed Memorandum of Agreement and required documentation from grantees, CCFF will disburse the grant funds in two equal payments (with some exceptions for one payment per CCFF discretion)--one at grant inception and the second at a time agreed upon between CCFF and the grantee, based on delivery schedule and expenses.

Proposal Guidelines

(1) Proposals must be executable within the funding and timeline provided. They should address one or more of the following priorities – although CCFF will consider other innovative ideas:

- elevate and celebrate father involvement and promote healthy father involvement and engagement
- connect fathers to needed community resources, promote stable employment and other essential

needs for fathers and families

- motivate fathers to become/remain involved in their child(ren)'s life
- improve professionals' knowledge about the importance of father involvement and skill development in engaging fathers
- **elevate prevention and** reduce child maltreatment and/or enhance other child well-being issues through father engagement, inclusion, and strengthening strategies
- establish/enhance foundational components for on-going fatherhood programming

These priorities may be addressed through new or expanded programming, focused projects or events, public campaigns, or training and education. Any questions about project eligibility can be presented at either of the scheduled webinars which all applicants and interested parties are strongly urged to attend.

(2) Curricula used by grantees must be evidence-based to be considered by CCFF. Some examples of acceptable curricula can be found at the following link (courtesy of Fatherhood.gov):

- [Compendium of Curricula Used by Fatherhood Programs](#)

Note: Travel expenses (not to exceed \$250 per traveler) to attend CCFF-Sponsored functions (i.e. Fatherhood Summit, etc.) for up to two people to attend **may be included in proposal budget**.

Submission Guidelines

1. Each proposal should be submitted on the application: Link provided on website: [Mini-Grants | CCFFKY](#)
2. Each essay question (except the Budget and Timeline) should be limited to 300 words.
3. Please be sure to upload a copy of your 501c3 Letter.
4. Upload any additional supporting documents (optional)

Submission Deadline

All proposals must be submitted to before **11:59p.m. on Monday, March 16th 2026**. Any proposals submitted after this date will not be considered.

Grant Limitations

Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families Mini-Grants are **NOT** intended for:

- General operating support (staff salaries, rent, utilities, etc.)
- Financial investments or endowment contributions
- Reimbursement of previously incurred expenses
- Fundraising
- Equipment (in excess of \$500)
- Lobbying

Funds are not permitted to be used for the purchase of alcohol, tobacco products, or illegal drugs.

Recommendations

1. **Put forward a compelling project** that meets the priorities listed above.
2. **Review the proposal and budget** to ensure a thoughtfully prepared proposal that aligns with the budget and timeline for implementation. This demonstrates consideration of all aspects of the project and related costs as well as the resources needed to ensure success.
3. **Submit any supporting documentation** that helps substantiate the request or the project budget. Examples of Supporting Document(s) might include a timeline, partner agreements, in-kind contributions, etc.

Requirements

Grant Projects/Programs must be completed by December 11, 2026. Awardees will be expected to maintain regular communication with CCFF during the period of performance of the grant. A final project report must be submitted within 30 days of project/program completion or by December 18, 2026. Whichever is earlier.

Grantees will receive communication support and coaching regarding media, imagery, and marketing from CCFF.

Communication Prohibitions

From the development phase of a proposal until the grants are announced, there may be no communication with members of the CCFF Board, the Review Committee, or any member of the CCFF staff unless there is a technical issue regarding the submission. All questions about this RFP will be addressed in scheduled informational webinars or should be directed to email below.

Contact Information for Questions

Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families
info@ccffky.org
[859-440-4001](tel:859-440-4001)



Grant Application Guidance

Proposal Instructions: Grant Proposals **MUST** be submitted on the online application. The link is provided on the Mini-Grants page of our website: [Mini-Grants | CCFFKY](#)

The header (below) must be completed in its entirety. If your organization does not have a website, put “N/A” in that section. If you do not know the exact projected dates, please put the month that you plan on beginning your project.

Organization Name:	
Mailing Address:	
Project Name:	
Proposed Project Start Date:	
Proposed Project End Date:	
Contact Person:	
E-mail:	
Phone:	
Website/Social Media:	

1. **Opportunity Statement (aka problem or needs statement) (15 points)** — Describe what you see as the opportunity to work with fathers and families or to improve the community’s support for fathers.
2. **Organizational Profile and Capacity (15 points)** — Please describe the organization’s stage of development and capacity- include details such as structure, personnel, and financial stability that will demonstrate your ability to accomplish this project. Please indicate any collaborations which you are currently engaged in or will be engaged in for this project and the role your collaborators will play. Please identify any additional capacity building that might be needed in order to accomplish this project.
3. **Approach (15 points)** — Describe your project rationale and provide a plan of action.
4. **Outcomes/Successes (15 points)** — Tell us how achieving the objectives of your proposal will address father engagement and/or RFP Proposal Guidelines. Include the project goals and how they will be measured – and how you will define “success” for your proposal. Where appropriate, evaluations or assessments measuring impact are strongly encouraged.
5. **Target Population (15 points)** — Describe the target population in which you will deliver this program. (public, professionals, practitioners, fathers, etc.) The proposal should consider service to

minority or marginalized populations. Proposals serving groups geographically distanced from major population centers (i.e. Eastern and Western Kentucky), economically disadvantaged populations, and racially diverse populations are strongly encouraged.

6. **Funding and Approval Process Verification (5 points)** — Please list the steps/process that will be required for you to obtain approval and receipt of funds.
7. **Budget (10 points)** — Provide an itemized budget showing the costs and justification for this project. In-kind contributions may also be noted (optional).
8. **Timeline of Project (10 points)** — Include a timeline of all major event dates/milestones for your project.
9. **Proof of Nonprofit Status (0 points)** – Please attach a copy of your 501c3 Letter. If you are working with a fiscal sponsor, please attach their 501c3 letter.
10. **Additional Supporting Documents (Optional)**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Please read the following statement and include your acknowledgement and agreement at the conclusion of the proposal.

CCFF desires to build a coalition of strong fathers and organizations to improve fatherhood, child well-being, and family health across Kentucky. To help CCFF achieve this goal, please acknowledge your willingness to collaborate and work with CCFF to:

- Elevate the statewide fatherhood network and acknowledge the role and support of CCFF as an active partner when promoting this grant funded opportunity.
- Actively participate in group or individual organizational growth and strengthening opportunities such as peer-to-peer meetings, workshops or webinars.
- Attend CCFF sponsored Statewide Fatherhood Summit or other CCFF sponsored event (if able)
- Voluntarily identify and refer qualified fathers to participate in the KYDAD Academy or regional huddles if/when applicable.
- Seek to establish or initiate collaborative alliances with one or more of the following agencies, organizations, or service providers: Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), Division for Child Care (DCC), Family Support (FS), Division for Protection and Permanency (DPP – aka “child protection”), Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Department of Income Support (DIS – aka “child support”), family courts, drug court, veterans court, schools, county attorneys, jails, recovery centers, and faith based organizations.