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Ohio Revised Code

Section 5180.705 Responsible fatherhood initiative.

Effective: September 30, 2025
Legislation: House Bill 96 - 136th General Assembly

(A) The department of children and youth, through the Ohio commission on fatherhood, must contract for the development and implementation of the responsible fatherhood initiative (RFI). The initiative must provide an opportunity for every father in the state to obtain information and inspiration that will motivate and enable him to enhance his abilities as a father, recognizing that some fathers have greater challenges than others and would benefit from greater support.

(B) The initiative must include the following:

(1) A statewide media campaign that increases the awareness of the importance of fathers being involved in their children's lives. The media campaign may include print, television, digital, and social media elements and appearances by and involvement from public figures and influencers.

(2) Resources and information for fathers and father figures to increase engagement and involvement in their children's lives.

(C)(1) The department must contract for the development and implementation of the initiative with a nonprofit (RFI manager) organization that has both of the following:

(a) A history of focusing on responsible fatherhood, including providing online resources to fathers, and engaging fathers, father figures, and children through community-based and school-based events to encourage responsible fatherhood;

(b) The organizational capacity to manage a statewide initiative and successfully carry out the requirements of this section.

(2) The organization must collaborate with other relevant government agencies and private organizations to develop and implement the initiative. Those agencies and organizations must collaborate with the contracted organization to carry out the initiative.

(3) The RFI manager must be solely responsible for developing, collaborating, and managing the RFI media campaign and the resources, content, and information for fathers.