

# FATHER INVOLVEMENT TOOLKIT

## *Barriers to Father Inclusion and Engagement*

- Service providers' own perspective of fathers
- Influence of a female dominated environment or profession
- Lack of support for male involvement at supervisory or management levels
- Lack of funding
- Participants' attitude about fathers/men
- Negative influence of peer and community attitude about fathers/men
- Services focused mainly on women and mothers
- Punitive posture from the system for men (e.g. child support and incarceration)
- Fathers' lack of awareness or knowledge of the court system that allows for the establishment of paternal rights, visitation, and time-sharing (parenting plan with the mother)
- Lack of capacity and limited services to support fathers
- Limited focus on evidence-based research and resources that can support father involvement
- Attitude of fathers themselves – not wanting or needing help
- Maturity or irresponsibility of both young and older fathers
- Fathers' understanding their value and worth in parenting
- Little to no positive role models in certain communities or environments

Note: This is not an exhaustive list, but one that is key for home visiting programs.

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