

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in support of Fatherhood programs across the State of Connecticut and a request to not cut funding to these Fatherhood programs. Working in the maternal child health arena for the past 23 years I have worked with many families and recognize the importance of a father figure in the life of a child. We have worked hard to include dads in the childbirth process, as active dads caring for newborns, as great nurturers as their child grows, and hopefully as supports to their partner. Even if a dad is not living in the home he can still be a significant part of the child's life. Learning about how to be a good dad is what these programs are all about. This work is being done through the Connecticut fatherhood programs which instill in dads their importance in their child's life, and the impact they can make for the child's future. Cuts to these programs would only damage the work that has been done and leave no where for a dad to turn. There are only a select few sites that have ongoing support for fathers with case management, groups, support and referrals. Please continue to fund these sites so they may continue to provide services to dads. It will be money well spent that will last a lifetime!