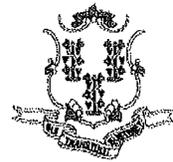




DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES
Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



Joette Katz
Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

February 27, 2015

RE: Fatherhood Services Budget

The Appropriations Committee
Room 2C of the LOB

Dear Appropriations Committee,

This letter is in regards to my concerns with cutting vital appropriations for Fatherhood Services. These services are paramount to being able to properly service that population of our state. Since I started with this department, over 20 years ago, there has never been gender specific services within this department and The Department of Social Services for fathers, father figures and the like. We recently were able to start the 24/7 Dad Program in our area, Middlesex County. It has been a wish for many years that recently came true. However, now it is in jeopardy of becoming extinct due to budget cuts. Through these services, the children of Connecticut benefit from having engaging fathers. As you are aware, children with fathers that are active in their lives become better citizens, are less involved in the criminal justice system, have much better outcomes measures in school and are much less likely to use illegal substances.

Please reconsider making these cuts. These services are for the tax paying citizens of this state and they deserve these services. Fathers are people too! Dad's matter too!

"It is easy to become a father, but much harder to be a father". Please let us help the fathers of this fine state.

Thanks you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Dumais
Program Manager
Middletown DCF
860-638-2157

Department of Children and Families
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