



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Maryland's Social Services Agency



MEDIA RELEASE

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**DHR RECEIVES CONTINUED FUNDING TO SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE
FATHERHOOD PROGRAMS**

\$1.5 million award is received during third year of the five year grant

BALTIMORE – The Maryland Department of Human Resources has received confirmation for the continuation of federal grants to help support programming aimed at promoting responsible fatherhood and stable families in Maryland.

The grants, administered through Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, total \$1.49 million and will benefit fatherhood programs in three counties and Baltimore City.

“We recognize that a first step in building strong communities is building strong families, said Department of Human Resources Secretary Brenda Donald. “These programs go a long way toward accomplishing that goal.”

Montgomery, Prince George’s and Talbot counties will receive \$491,000 to help continue their “*Winning Fathers*” project. This initiative serves father who are within six months of release from incarceration. Project participants and their spouses (partners) are provided services which include healthy marriage/relationship education and counseling, parenting skills, and job training.

Baltimore City has received nearly \$1 million to continue the “*Strong Fathers/Strong Families*” project. This program serves 300 unmarried and married fathers and their families annually. It prepares fathers for successful healthy relationships and focuses on the importance of healthy marriage and the rearing of children in two parent families.

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, Campaign for our Children, and local departments of social services were key partners in the effort to secure the “*Winning Fathers*” grant. The “*Strong Fathers/Strong Families*” project is a collaborative effort between DHR/Baltimore City Department of Social Services, and Campaign for our Children, The Phyllis Wheatley Educational Centers, Optimal Solutions Group and the House of Ruth- in Maryland.

“Key to the success of any of our programs is our ability to connect with our community partners in these efforts, said Johnny Rice, Director of the Office of Grants Management at DHR. “Because of our partnerships, we are making a positive difference in homes and communities across the state.”

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The Maryland Department of Human Resources is the state’s social service provider serving 500,000 people in need each year. The agency collaborates with 24 local jurisdictions to provide foster care, adoption and protective services to children and temporary cash, food stamps and medical assistance to families. It also provides programs for homeless persons, refugees, migrant workers, victims of crime and women who are displaced, battered or assaulted. In terms of its annual budget, DHR is the fourth largest state agency.