



Reconnecting Families and Dads

Registration Issue

April 2014

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan Declares His Support for the Father's Day Initiative

Breaking News— Secretary Shaun Donovan has written a letter of support for the Father's Day Initiative. In the letter, which is being sent with this newsletter, Secretary Donovan encourages housing authorities to be a part of the initiative, saying:

"By participating in Father's Day 2014, you can demonstrate your agency's commitment to improving the quality of life for children by supporting responsible male involvement in their lives. Forming national partnerships and coordinating local resources makes planning and hosting this fun and life-changing event easier—regardless of the size of the event."

If your PHA is interested in being a part of the Father's Day Initiative the best thing to do is [register your event](#). **You don't need to have your event planned to register for Father's Day**, your PHA only needs to be planning to host an event.

Need some Father's Day event ideas? Check out our "[Strategies for a Successful Father's Day Event](#)." This list of event, messaging, and partnering suggestions should help you build the event that fits your PHA. Whatever you do, remember that the goal of the Father's Day Initiative is to strengthen families and communities by supporting dads. In the words of Secretary Donovan "I hope that you will not pass up this opportunity to make a positive difference for a child."

Father's Day Registration in Full Swing

Thanks to the nearly 100 PHAs have registered their Father's Day Initiative event!
You can register your event, [here](#).

Hosting an event? Send your flyers to Sandra.Norcom@hud.gov
We'll share your creative message in upcoming newsletters

Want to learn more about the Father's Day Initiative?
Visit our webpage: hud.gov/fathersday

*Follow all the Father's Day Initiative news on Twitter,
with our hashtag #FDI2014*

Father's Day Partnership Possibilities with My Brother's Keeper

We're always excited about Father's Day, and this year we're more excited than ever! This is the fourth year that HUD has been working with PHAs around the country and for some PHAs, the event has become a regular, annual affair. We also see an incredible array of events—some PHAs have all day events, and some have much simpler, one hour ceremonies. Whatever the event, it all matters; because they all help children and their fathers develop a deeper connection.

Another big reason for our excitement is President Obama's new initiative, My Brother's Keeper (MBK). That initiative, launched in early March, focuses on changing the trajectory of so many boys and young men of color. It seems that this group is at the bottom of every negative indicator we see - whether it's 3rd grade reading level; number of school suspensions/expulsions; unemployment rate; or incarceration rate. The MBK Federal Task Force has brought Federal Agencies, Foundations, Non-Profits and Corporations together, and in the coming months there will be a concerted effort to address the issues that confront this group. Learn more about the initiative at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/my-brothers-keeper>.

Father's Day and MBK are two different initiatives, but they share two key similarities: one, that the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children is crucial to those children, and two, that low-income men, need to be connected to services that will help them succeed. Like Father's Day, MBK is supported by a number of nonprofits, businesses and foundations. As the programs also share the goals of strengthening families and communities, there seem to be some natural opportunities for partnerships, at the local level. Some of the most successful Father's day events have come from partnerships with like-minded organizations. If MBK is working in near you, consider reaching out to learn what they can offer the dads and families in your community.

*-by Ron Ashford
Director of HUD Resident Supportive Services Division*



Have you hosted a Father's Day Event? Share what participating has meant for your PHA

We know PHAs across the country have success stories to share from their Father's Day events; we want to hear from you! Write to us if:

- you've continued Father's Day Programming throughout the year
- participating in the Father's Day Initiative helped you with a grant application
- you've witnessed the program having a positive impact on families in your community

Send your Father's Day success stories to Sandra.Norcom@hud.gov. Be sure to put "Father's Day Success" in the subject heading. We look forward to hearing from you!

Fatherhood in the News



["Daughters, Dads Pair Up for an Evening of Dancing"](#)- *Mason City Globe Gazette* (Mason City, IA)

["Men Learn Fatherhood Together"](#) – *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* (Rochester, NY)

["More Michigan dads volunteer to help at school"](#) *The Detroit News* (Detroit, MI)