

## Fathering Court

### ABOUT FATHERING COURT

Fathering Court is an innovative alternative to prosecution and incarceration for men with significant child support arrearages. The program increases the number of fathers that contribute financially and emotionally to their children and improves their self sufficiency by helping the men successfully overcome the challenges that have led to their non-payment of child support.

### WHO BENEFITS

**Children** – Gain from having involved, effective fathers. Research shows that a wide range of child outcomes are positively influenced by fathers' involvement including educational achievement, income, physical and emotional health, etc. Men learn to develop better relationships with their children and children's mothers through the 12-week fathering class. They also learn to obtain and maintain meaningful employment that allows them to provide consistent financial support.

**Fathers** – Learn life skills that positively impact their lives, their children's lives, the mother of their children, and their community.

**Community** – Benefits from increased revenue from child support payments and taxes as well as reduced financial costs as a result of rehabilitation. Specifically, skill development and employment assistance helps dads become employable and eliminates the expense of prosecution, incarceration, and welfare cost associated with delinquent child-support payments.

### THE RESULTS

281 men have graduated or are currently enrolled in Fathering Court during its 11 year history. These participants have contributed more than \$2.6 M in child support payments and avoided \$2.8 M in incarceration costs.

In addition, pre and post evaluations indicate that men who graduated from Fathering Court have significantly more contact with their children, increased interaction with their child's mother about their child's development, and pay their child support.

### COMPONENTS

- Committed Judge and Prosecutor
- Effective Case Manager
- Readily Accessible Support Services: substance abuse, job training, educations, housing, transportation, child advocacy, healthcare
- Proven Fathering Curriculum and Certified Instructor