

# **Building Assets for Fathers and Families: Washington State**

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# BAFF Overview

- Three-year grant from OCSE to support increased asset building services for NCPs
- Washington DCS one of seven states to receive funding in 2010
- Collaboration between DCS and AFI grantees in two sites (Spokane and Vancouver)
- Goals
  - Serve 600 NCPs in 3 years
  - Promote increased financial stability, asset ownership, and ability to meet child support obligations
- Evaluation
  - Characteristics of participants
  - Describe implementation
  - Participant outcomes



# Program Design

- Target low-income NCPs
- Provide case management and asset building services
  - Financial education
  - Other asset building services
  - Referrals to supportive services
  - More intensive child support services



# Program Participant Characteristics

	Spokane	Vancouver
Male	91%	78%
Shelter/transitional housing	32%	16%
No un/earned income at enrollment	39%	39%
Previously incarcerated	64%	71%
Total participants	340	248

- Child Support Characteristics
  - 85% had current support due, median order amount of roughly \$230.
  - Median arrears: Over \$7,000 in both sites
  - Limited payments in months leading up to enrollment



# BAFF Services

- Case management and navigation
  - Employment
  - Legal (parenting plans)
  - Referrals to supportive services (e.g., housing, food, chemical dependency, Veteran's services)
- Asset building
  - IDAs
  - Financial education
  - Banking, budgeting, and credit
- Child support
  - Case information
  - Negotiation on payments
  - Licenses
  - Modifications and debt write-off



# Child Support Outcomes

- 81% of BAFF NCPs with current support due at enrollment made a payment
  - Median payment: \$1,212
- 66% of BAFF NCPs with past support due at enrollment made a payment toward this debt
  - On average, 91 days to payment
  - Median payment: \$952
- 37% received modifications
- Change in median arrears from point of enrollment
  - \$605 increase in Spokane
  - \$263 decrease in Vancouver
- 50 Cases closed



# Conclusions

- Means to engage disconnected NCPs
  - Help with child support is the carrot
- NCP distrust of DCS and misconceptions about child support
- Service needs of non-compliant NCPs
  - Child support
  - Supportive services – employment and housing
  - Specific needs for ex-offenders
- Who you target matters
  - Willing, but not able NCPs
  - Identifying right service mix (considering payment history and income)
- Leveraging community partners
  - Disseminating child support knowledge



# Contact Information

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