



DADS Council Accomplishments

Since 2019, the NJ DCF Dads Achieving Dynamic Success (DADS) Council in partnership with the Office of Family Voice has been committed to enhancing fatherhood engagement at DCF. Here are a few DADS accomplishments.

2019 - 2023

- Partnered with NJ DCF Executive Leadership to create the “Commitment to Fathers” Administrative Order, establishing a standard within DCF which prioritizes including fathers in all aspects of DCP&P policy and practice.
- Created a “Child Support Relief” video for DCF Leadership highlighting the financial hardships fathers face when their children are in out of home placement. This has led to the temporary pause on child support payments for children who are in foster care.
- Collaborated with the DCF Division on Women to co-design standards and language for the Abuse Intervention Program and the program’s Request for Proposal.
- Partnered with the NJ DCF Office of Legal Affairs to review and revise the ADA II Disabilities policy to ensure all parents with disabilities are properly accommodated when involved with DCP&P.
- Collaborated with the NJ Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), to review and provide feedback for the Children in Court Parents Handbook Planner. Through endorsement from the DADS Council the AOC established a QR Code to assist all clients with enhancing their ability to locate the handbook planner.
- Met with NJ Senator-elect Andy Kim to provide recommendations for the [Congressional Dads Caucus](#).

2024 - Present

- Partnered with the NJ Office of the Public Defender (OPD) to review and revise the “Notice to Parents” that clients will receive from OPD when involved with DCP&P.
- Partnering with DCP&P to revamp the current DCF Parent Handbook.
- Collaborating with the DCF Office of Training and Personal Development AND Rutgers University to review and provide feedback on the DCF “Fathers are Important” training.
- Resume discussion with the Children in Court Youth Family Community Voice Subcommittee about recommendations that will improve fatherhood engagement within the courts.

Upcoming in 2025

- Exploring the development of a formal DCP&P grievance process that clearly outlines the steps for filing a complaint.
- Partnering with Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) to develop a survey and data collection process for fathers across New Jersey.

Awards & Recognition

- DADS Council member Garnet Roberts Batson honoured by Parents Inc. for his work on the NJ DCF DADS Council was awarded the Parent Leadership Award in February 2024.
- DADS Council member Christian Rivera receives Legal Services of New Jersey’s Family Unification Award in May of 2024 for his successful reunification with his daughter.