Father engagement is the purposeful inclusion of fathers in human services programs, with the goal of improving outcomes for fathers, children, and families. Programs, organizations, and systems all play a role in promoting father engagement.

**Program**
- Tailor recruitment and intake methods
  - Go into community places where men gather
  - Highlight fathers’ impact on children’s outcomes
  - Use current/former participants to recruit
  - Adjust intake procedures
- Make the service environment inclusive
  - Increase male staff representation
  - Create a father-friendly environment
  - Provide father-to-father learning
- Meet fathers’ needs and their desire to be good parents
  - Design flexible programs
  - Recognize fathers’ individual differences and shared desire to be good parents

**Organization**
- Demonstrate organizational commitment
  - Align father engagement with the organization’s mission
  - Secure diverse funding
  - Collect data for continuous quality improvement
- Enhance staffing and supervision
  - Train all staff to engage fathers
  - Create supervisory practice to support and monitor father engagement

**System**
- Identify and break down systemic barriers
  - Review internal policies to overcome historical barriers for father
  - Align policies across programs
  - Include fathers’ voices in policy, technical assistance (TA), and research
- Provide TA, funding, and other resources
  - Help organizations identify and access resources
  - Encourage and develop statewide fatherhood commissions
  - Provide TA on data collection
- Identify and collaborate with partner organizations
  - Partner to identify new fathers and complement existing services

https://aspe.hhs.gov/father-engagement