



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0050

Dear Executive Director:

I would like to encourage you to join other public housing authorities (PHAs) nationwide, on the Saturday of Father's Day weekend, June 18, in collaborating with local partners to host a special event for fathers and their children. Dubbed Father's Day 2011, and modeled after a program that the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) launched last summer, and has been repeating monthly, the event would have two purposes: to strengthen the bonds between fathers and their children, and to make education, health care, and employment resources available to the fathers that may lead to economic self-sufficiency.

The NYCHA launched its first event by sending flyers across the borough of Brooklyn and inviting fathers to come with their children to a "Fatherhood Initiative Day" at a local community center. A copy of the flyer is enclosed. The NYCHA worked with a number of their partners to provide arts and crafts, games, refreshments, and other activities for participating fathers and their children. In addition, the NYCHA contacted local service providers and asked them to provide information on education and job training opportunities, and health and legal advice.

The response was impressive, as more than 100 people attended the first event. The NYCHA has since expanded the program to the boroughs of Manhattan and Queens, and has been holding one each month. The Department has asked the NYCHA to talk about its success in developing its program during a HUD webinar on Thursday, March 24.

In addition, the Department has asked other federal agencies, primarily the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor, to contact the organizations they fund on the local level (Federally Qualified Health Clinics and One-Stop Career Centers) to urge them to contact PHAs that have already shown an interest in coordinating this event, and to encourage them to participate in the event itself, if not in the planning as well. HUD plans to discuss this initiative with nonfederal groups, and will be urging them to contact their local affiliates to work with participating PHAs.

If you are willing to host an event at one of your community centers or a facility nearby, by collaborating with your local partners, the Department asks that you designate a contact person and have him or her register online at www.hud.gov/fathersday2011. For viewing of our March 24 webinar, please go to <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/webcasts/schedule>. In addition, a Toolkit will be available on our webpage, providing further information on our event. For questions related to our event, please send your emails to PIH_Fathers_Day_2011@hud.gov.

As professionals in the public housing world, we all know the importance of having fathers involved in the lives of their children. Just think, if you participate in Father's Day 2011, you will take a small step toward enhancing the process of father and child bonding, and will make resources available to the fathers that may lead them to improve their lives. Whether your event is big or small, the Department hopes you will join us on June 18.

Sincerely,



Ron Sims

Enclosure