

Father's Day Brief

April 19, 2013

This is the fourth of a series of e-mails to keep you informed about everything Father's Day 2013



There is still time to register and send us your plans and flyers on making Father's Day events great--Please visit our Father's Day [webpage](#) to register your PHA. Send your plans, event photos and flyers to [PIH Fathers Day 2013@HUD.gov](mailto:PIH_Fathers_Day_2013@HUD.gov)

Registrations are pouring in and we're looking forward to making this a great success! If you still need ideas, we have a list that could help you located on our [website](#). Need to inspire dads? HUD has created a series of videos highlighting the importance of fatherhood featuring former NFL players. Check out our [first video](#) with Cato June of the Indianapolis Colts.

Finally, we are keenly aware that sequestration is hitting everyone very hard. Below is a message from Ron Ashford, head of the Father's Day team, addressing this important issue.

Dear ED:

Sequestration.

Last year 304 PHAs held Father's Day events, and our surveys showed that more than 35,000 people attended those events, including more than 7,000 men. The events ranged from affairs that brought out 500 people, to much more modest luncheons and smaller affairs. The survey also indicated that most participating PHAs were eager to host an event in 2013, but that was before another event occurred: Sequestration.

We are keenly aware that sequestration is hitting PHAs very hard. We have heard from a few PHAs who have said that they cannot sponsor a Father's Day event this year because of the cuts. One PHA staff person who I've known for years called to tell me that they couldn't host an event, and I asked "what if another agency in your city was holding an event? Would you be willing to join, either as a co-sponsor or simply by circulating flyers to your residents?" Her response was, yes that would definitely work for us.

And so we are hard at work trying to find other local organizations that might be hosting a Father's Day event. We've asked the following organizations to survey their affiliates to determine if any of them are having events:

- Boys and Girls Clubs * YMCA
- Police Athletic League (PAL) * Goodwill
- Head Start Centers * 4-H Clubs
- National Fatherhood Initiative * HHS Marriage and Fatherhood Grantees
- Fraternities/Sororities

We have begun to identify some entities that are hosting events in various cities, and, as they come in, we will forward them to PHAs in those cities. As you become aware of other organizations hosting Father's Day events in your communities, feel free to forward that information to us as well.

We also know from our surveys that many PHAs coordinated their events with ongoing events that were planned by either cities, neighborhood associations or other entities. The Alexandria Housing Authority (VA) held their event as part of a Teen Celebration Festival; some PHAs in Texas held their events as part of Juneteenth affairs.

We would like to remind you that a Father's Day event does not have to be an all-day, 500 person affair. Our Father's Day Toolkit on our website details some of the smaller events you could hold that would accomplish the mission of Father's Day: providing a space for fathers to connect with their children, and at the same time connecting them to resources that will enable them to be in a better position to support their families.

Finally, we want to take this opportunity to acknowledge mothers. In the overwhelming majority of our families, it is a female head of household that performs virtually all the tasks that go into nurturing happy, successful children. In our push to get Fathers involved it may appear that we have forgotten mothers and Mother's Day. We certainly haven't and we urge PHAs to recognize the importance of mothers, grandmothers, and all other female mentors and leaders in every way possible, perhaps by passing a Board proclamation or taking other measures to celebrate and appreciate the power that a loving mother exhibits over the future of her family. Your feedback and good ideas on ways to better incorporate this message into our plans for future events are welcomed, as always.

**Don't forget to visit our [HUD's Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages for Father's Day 2013 News.
Questions? Contact the Father's Day Team at [PIH Fathers Day 2013@HUD.gov](mailto:PIH_Fathers_Day_2013@HUD.gov)
We look forward to hearing from you!**