



## **FATHER-FRIENDLY PRINCIPLES FOR AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN ALAMEDA COUNTY**

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The Alameda County Fathers Corps is a county-wide team of male service providers-in-training, working to help strengthen families by helping men be the best fathers they can be. Our goal is that every father is fully engaged and supportive of their children and that agencies and organizations in Alameda County be fully prepared to help them succeed. The Fathers Corps guides providers in building on the five protective factors of the Strengthening Families Framework to reduce risks and create optimal outcomes for children and families.

Towards that end, the Alameda County Fathers Corps has adopted the following set of Father-Friendly Principles which we recommend be implemented in service organizations county-wide.

**Principle 1:** That fathers and the needs of fathers, be included in the structure and delivery model of all family services in Alameda County agencies and organizations

**Principle 2:** That Alameda County programs, agencies and organizations be open, supportive, helpful, and inclusive towards the needs of fathers and provide father-specific services and/or programs, all of which further the goal of increasing fathers' involvement in their children's lives

**Principle 3:** That outreach materials, illustrations, posters, brochures and other collateral materials include positive and diverse images of fathers being fathers, and that facilities provide father-friendly environments with materials consistent with the needs and interests of men and fathers

**Principle 4:** That Alameda County family service programs, agencies and organizations create positions that serve fathers, and actively recruit men to fill those positions in order to better address the needs of fathers. To facilitate recruitment, we recommend development of a career track for father services, e.g. active recruitment of young men into social services with scholarships, internships and explicit advertising that "men are strongly urged to apply."

**Principle 5:** That Alameda County programs, agencies and organizations working with families strive to provide training for all staff on working with men and on fatherhood issues

**Principle 6:** That Alameda County programs, agencies and organizations develop program policies that include a clear expectation that fathers should and will participate

**Principle 7:** That Alameda County agencies and organizations make every effort to create the image that its programs are designed for fathers, as well as for mothers and children

## **References**

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