



Father's Day 2014



Father's Day events have a dual purpose: To provide fun activities to support the bonding of fathers and their children and to connect fathers to economic development resources. To host the celebrations, PHAs partner with federal agencies, nonprofits, and local businesses, offering on-site information and services such as employment resources, healthcare consultation and legal counseling. In some cities, participants meet athletes from the NFL and NBA, while others receive free books from organizations such as First Book and Read it LOUD. Celebrations feature activities from moon bounces to reading booths, focusing on celebrating fatherhood, family and dads in staying connected with their children.

In line with HUD's 2010-2015 Strategic Plan Goal 3: "*using housing as a platform to improve the quality of life of our residents,*" the focus on fatherhood in public housing flows from current statistics that show fathers are absent. The majority of public housing households with children are headed by single women who earn less than \$9,000 annually. While fathers are often present in and around public housing developments, most of them are not officially on the household's lease and are often disconnected from services that could lead to economic stability for themselves and their children.

The first year HUD kicked-off the *Father's Day* initiative in 2011, 209 PHAs from 33 states held *Father's Day* events that combined supportive services with promoting fatherhood to strengthen families. An estimated 22,000 fathers, children, mothers and many others participated in events that local public housing authorities held all over the nation.

"Children with involved fathers grow up happier, healthier and better prepared to succeed in life," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, himself a father of two. "Yet every night, one-out-of-three American children goes to bed in a home without a father present. These events will bring fathers and their children together and connect the dads to the social and economic resources they need to be the best parents they can be."

In 2013, over 300 housing agencies in 33 States participated in *Father's Day* and partnered with other organizations including the NFL, NBA, Boys & Girls Club of America, and the NFI, an organization created in 1993 to raise the awareness of the importance of fathers. Together, these groups are delivering a clear message — *America needs dads*. Public Housing Agencies can register to participate in Father's Day by going to www.hud.gov/fathersday. Ron Ashford notes: "We know men in our communities are not always integrally connected to services. One of the key goals in HUD's Father's Day Initiative is to help connect men to resources that can improve their lives and the lives of their families. Some fathers may need help with job training or employment resources, others with access to health services."

Federal partners include the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, United States Department of Agriculture and the Departments of Education and Justice.