

Parent Support Program

The Parent Support Program works with non-custodial parents to help them find employment, increase child support, and engage with their children. In collaboration with the Onondaga County Family Court, the Center piloted New York State's first parent support program in 2008. Using this program as a model, the Center worked with the New York City Family Court and New York City Human Resources Administration to launch parent support programs in Brooklyn and the Bronx.

How It Works

Judges refer non-custodial parents to the program when they appear in court for child support cases. A resource coordinator assesses each client's needs and links them with employment services and other assistance, including job skills development, vocational training, case management, family life skills classes, continuing education, legal advice, transportation assistance, and child care.

The resource coordinator monitors the client's participation in the program, and provides the court with regular progress reports.

Graduation

In order to graduate, each parent must complete of his or her individualized service plan. Additionally, the respondent must demonstrate at least six months of employment and consistent child support payments. Graduates receive a certificate of completion from the court and, where legally permissible, may have their arrears reduced.

Outcomes

The Center for Court Innovation's parent support programs have helped hundreds of parents reconnect with their children and make a meaningful contribution to their children's development. For example, over its first seven years of operation, the program in Kings County increased child support payments from participants by approximately \$3.9 million.

For More Information

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