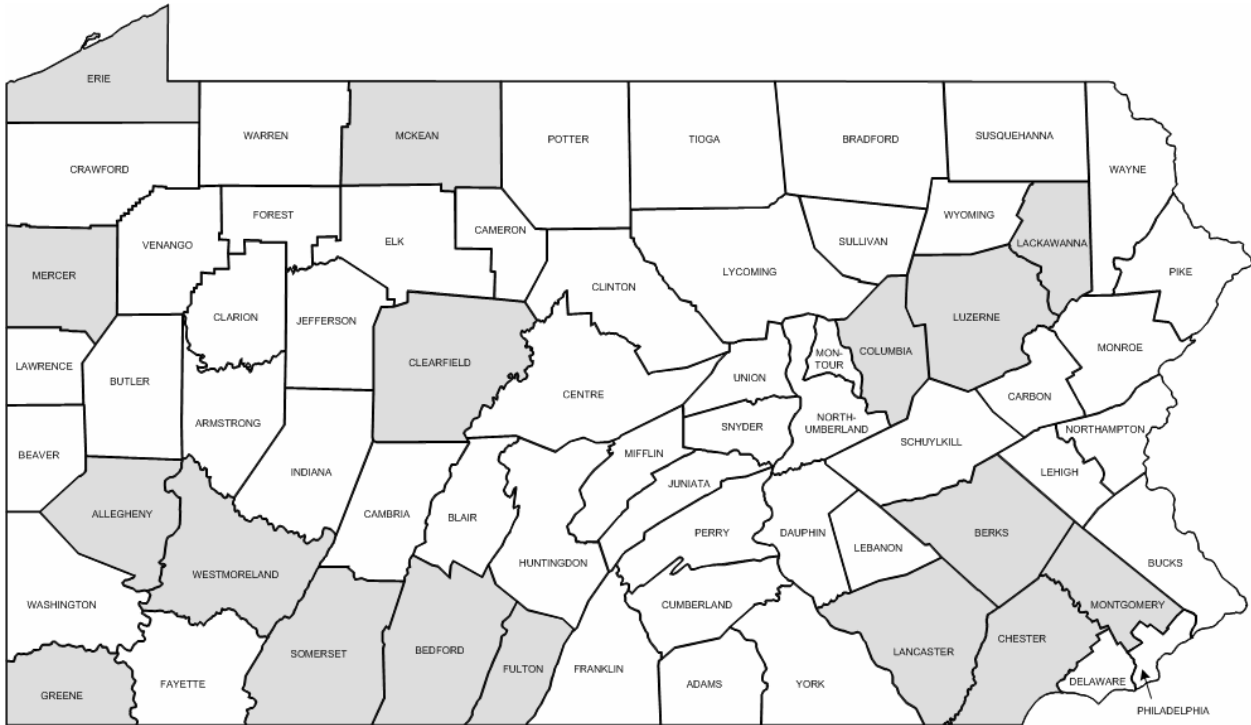


# Pennsylvania Fatherhood Initiative



## Overview

Fatherhood Initiatives, in Pennsylvania and nationally, are designed to motivate and challenge fathers to become involved in their children's lives by focusing on services that promote strong families through personal and parental responsibility. Like Family Centers, Pennsylvania's fatherhood projects are based on the philosophy that the most effective way to insure the healthy growth and development of children is to support families and the communities in which they live.

The Fatherhood Initiative recognizes that although fathers are very important to the healthy development of children, they have not been the traditional target population to receive parenting and support services. Projects engage in targeted outreach and innovative service delivery approaches to fathers who in the past may have been excluded due to geographic isolation or inability to access services.

The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare currently funds 20 Family Center-based Fatherhood Initiatives in the 17 counties shaded in the map above.

The purpose of the Fatherhood Initiative is to:

- Increase the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children;
- Improve parenting knowledge, attitude and skills;
- Increase fathers' education level and job skills;
- Increase the financial support provided by non-custodial fathers; and
- Encourage and support fathers as positive role models.

While the specific strategies that are implemented in each program are unique to the community being served, all fatherhood projects include the following components: outreach services; individual and group support services and activities for fathers; education/skills training opportunities; and adult education, pre-employment and job skills training.

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