



## ■ TRACK F: STRENGTHENING FAMILIES: EXAMINING FATHERHOOD, RELATIONSHIPS AND MARRIAGE

This track highlights research on strengthening families, including the areas of fatherhood, relationships and marriage. The plenary session and four breakout sessions will focus on the effectiveness of family strengthening interventions, couples relationship education programs, opportunities to strengthen families and communities focused on specific vulnerable populations, engaging couples in service delivery and current research on responsible fatherhood and young fathers in the U.S.

Session	Plenary	Breakout #1	Breakout #2	Breakout #3	Breakout #4
<b>Session Name</b>	<i>Men, Fathers and Income Support Policy</i>	<i>Strengthening Relationships among Unwed Parents: Building Strong Families</i>	<i>Engaging Couples in Service Delivery</i>	<i>Strengthening Families and Communities Focused on Specific Vulnerable Populations</i>	<i>Can Preventative Couple Relationship and Parenting Education Help Low-Resource Families? The Emerging Evidence</i>
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	Thursday, June 3 1:15–2:45 p.m.	Wednesday, June 2 1:30–3:00 p.m.	Thursday, June 3 10:15–11:45 a.m.	Thursday, June 3 4:00–5:30 p.m.	Friday, June 4 10:15–11:45 a.m.
<b>Room</b>	<i>Presidential Ballroom</i>	<i>Senate Room</i>	<i>Senate Room</i>	<i>Senate Room</i>	<i>Senate Room</i>
<b>Moderator</b>	Vicki Turetsky	Seth Chamberlain	Myles Schlank	Linda Mellgren	Alan Hawkins
<b>Speaker 1</b>	Timothy Smeeding	Robin Dion	Robin Dion	Marcia Carlson	Carolyn and Philip Cowan
<b>Speaker 2</b>	Andrew Sum	Robert Wood	Heather Zaveri	Allison Hyra	Jason Wilde
<b>Speaker 3</b>	Ronald Mincy	Mary Myrick	Sharon Rowser	Sarah Schappert and Candi Carmi	Jennifer Kerpelman and Joe Pittman
<b>Speaker 4</b>	Elaine Sorensen				

This plenary session, *Men, Fathers and Income Support Policy*, focuses on the experiences of young, low-income men in the United States. Moderated by Vicki Turetsky (Office of Child Support Enforcement), this session will hone in on the economic circumstances, role as fathers and labor market experiences of young, low-income men.

- Timothy Smeeding (University of Wisconsin-Madison) will discuss young disadvantaged men, focusing on fathers, families, poverty and policy, including child support.



- Andrew Sum (Northeastern University) will provide an overview of the recent labor market experiences and earnings of young men.
- Ronald Mincy (Columbia University) will describe income support systems for disadvantaged men and noncustodial fathers, especially as related to child support and arrears issues.
- Elaine Sorensen (The Urban Institute) will discuss implications of child support payments and arrears for low-income men.

The ***Strengthening Relationships among Unwed Parents: Building Strong Families*** breakout session will present findings from the Building Strong Families evaluation. This session, moderated by Seth Chamberlain (Administration for Children and Families), will include a practitioner from a participating site who will describe the site's experience and lessons learned.

- Robin Dion (Mathematica Policy Research) will describe findings from the implementation of the Building Strong Families project, including lessons learned from working with unmarried parents.
- Robert Wood (Mathematica Policy Research) will discuss the interim impacts from the project, a study of programs to strengthen relationships among unmarried parents.
- Mary Myrick (Public Strategies, Inc.) will offer a participating site's perspective on the project and findings, and will discuss implications for future initiatives.

The potential importance of focusing on couples in service provision will be the central theme of the ***Engaging Couples in Service Delivery*** breakout session. This session, moderated by Myles Schlank (Office of Child Support Enforcement), will feature three presentations that discuss and describe a couples-based approach to service delivery.

- Robin Dion (Mathematica Policy Research) will describe findings from an observational study of how low-income couples make key decisions on such issues as employment, child rearing and living arrangements.
- Heather Zaveri (Mathematica Policy Research) will present initial findings and lessons learned from a program seeking to provide support to couples regarding employment, financial literacy and strengthening relationships.
- Sharon Rowser (MDRC) will discuss lessons learned about engaging and serving couples from ACF's Supporting Healthy Marriage project.

The breakout session ***Strengthening Families and Communities Focused on Specific Vulnerable Populations***, moderated by Linda Mellgren (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), will highlight programs targeted to and research on Latino families, complex families with multiple partners and Native American communities.

- Marcia Carlson (University of Wisconsin-Madison) will discuss recent work that examines the parental involvement and investment that 5-year-old children receive across a range of complex family types.



- Allison Hyra (The Lewin Group) will describe ways that federally-funded programs that provide family strengthening services reach, engage and serve Hispanic individuals, couples and families in culturally-grounded ways.
- Sarah Schappert (Administration for Children and Families) and Candi Carmi (Native American Management Services, Inc.) will describe the Administration for Native Americans' Strengthening Families Initiative and lessons for working with Native American populations.

Programs aimed at preventing family dysfunction and strengthening families will be examined during the breakout session ***Can Preventative Couple Relationship and Parenting Education Help Low-Resource Families? The Emerging Evidence***. Moderated by Alan Hawkins (Brigham Young University), this session will focus on the future viability of this policy tool.

- Carolyn and Philip Cowan (University of California-Berkeley) will discuss their recent work on an evaluation of the Supporting Father Involvement project in California, focused on positive fathering and couple relationship skills.
- Jason Wilde (University of Minnesota) will present findings from the Minnesota Family Formation Project, including family stability outcomes.
- Jennifer Kerpelman and Joe Pittman (Auburn University) will discuss results from the Healthy Couples, Healthy Children – Targeting Youth Project, which sought to educate a diverse group of adolescents about healthy relationships.