

## The E<sup>3</sup> Fatherhood Program

*“Responsible, engaged fathers are critical to the financial, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual well-being of children, and, therefore to the strength and health of American families and communities.”*

-President Barack Obama, Speech delivered Father’s Day 2008, Apostolic Church of God in Chicago

The E<sup>3</sup> Fatherhood Program is designed to be operated by professionals who are already working with teen fathers and their families. The E<sup>3</sup> Fatherhood Program is not a standalone program; rather it is aimed at *organizing community agencies already in place.*

The E<sup>3</sup> Fatherhood Program will act as a focusing agent for these resources in order to address the gaps in the system experienced by teen fathers and their families.

E<sup>3</sup> will address the needs of teen fathers by capitalizing on the unique educational policies in the State of New Hampshire. *E<sup>3</sup> will help teen fathers work towards graduation at the same time they are building a foundation for long-term, skilled employment and obtaining social support for engagement with their child.*



### Stakeholders and Collaborators

#### New Hampshire’s Department of Education (NHDOE)

The NHDOE operates 28 Adult High Schools that serve approximately 1800 youth 16 or older who have not received a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate or who do not read, write, or speak English. Local adult education programs serve adult learners whose skills range from very basic to high school level.

#### The National Center for Competency-Based Learning (NCCBL)

NCCBL integrates job-site experience as credit bearing coursework in high school curriculum. NCCBL can design a competency plan that allows students to graduate from high school as a result of demonstrating mastery of required competencies rather than ‘clock hours of instructional time.’

#### Child Health Services Manchester, NH

**Contacts: (603) 860-8310**

1245 Elm Street · Manchester, NH 03101  
Child Health Services is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children from families in the Greater Manchester area. CHS provides specialized care that is adapted to the specific physical and psychosocial needs of children served.

#### United Way 211 Community Resource Directory

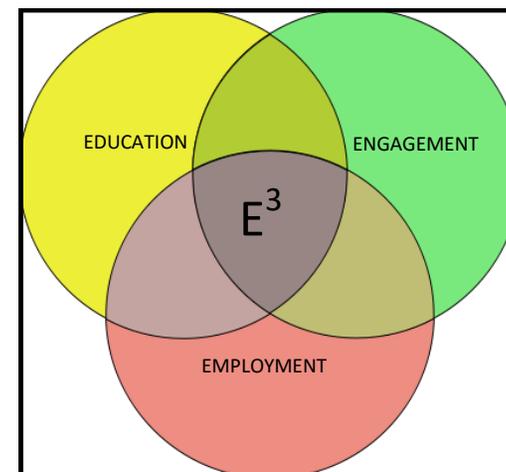
2-1-1 is a three-digit telephone number available 24/7 for the purpose of providing NH families support and resources.

#### Dover Children’s Home

The Dover Children Home has provided support to New Hampshire’s families for over a century. They deliver a teen parenting program that provides support to both teen fathers and mothers.

#### University of New Hampshire

The Craft Cottage Center for Marriage and Family Therapy provides services to teen fathers and their families free of charge.



#### NH Vital Statistics, 2015

*Of the 287,214 minors in New Hampshire there are approximately 2,500 whose fathers were teenagers when they were born. Approximately 20% of them (n=521) were born in the last five years.*



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## New Hampshire Teen Father Program

Targeted, well-designed programs have the potential to fostering resilience (both on the individual and family level) to the stressors associated with being a teen-parent family. Theory, research, and past programming efforts suggest that high **school graduation, job training, mentoring, and opportunities for positive father-child interaction** are key factors to sustained positive involvement between young fathers and their children. The **E<sup>3</sup> Fathering Program** implements these theoretical and research-based



practices by fostering collaboration between existing policies and community supports in the State of New Hampshire. This collaboration provides a holistic approach to **empowering families that include expectant or parenting teens**. This approach focuses on the three research and theory based factors found to support teen fathers in overcoming the barriers to greater involvement with their families: **Education, Employment, and Engagement (E<sup>3</sup>)**. As a result, the NH Teen Fatherhood Program is here to involve teen fathers with their children, keep fathers in school, strengthen their employment skills, and provide comprehensive support services.



## About Teen Fathers

### Teen fathers are an important point of intervention for families that include expectant and parenting

teens. There is increasing evidence that teen fathers want to be (and are) involved with their children.

Although teen fathers are often motivated to be good fathers, contextual and interpersonal factors often stand in the way of their forming and maintaining strong relationships with their children (Gee & Rhodes, 2003). Teen dads want emotional support during the transition to fatherhood and information, practical help, and counseling to address relationships with their partners, families and communities. The most frequently requested services include employment support, parenting education, legal advice, medical treatment, obtaining a high school diploma, and child care assistance. This is why the E<sup>3</sup> program exists; to support the unique needs of the teen father.

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Gee, C. & Rhoades, J. (2003). Adolescent mothers relationships with their children’s partners: Social support, social strain, and relationship continuity. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 17, 370-383.

## Program Goals

The goals of the program are to help teen fathers connect with their child in a healthy and productive manner; model and teach them how to be involved in the child-rearing process; to continue their education on the secondary level and to find long-term skilled employment. This program will operate on several levels to provide ‘wrap-around’ services to build teen father resiliency in both the short and long term.

## Program Outcomes

*Immediately after completing the program teen fathers will have:*

- Improved co-parental relationship with the mother of their child and the improved ability to co-parent;
- Increased satisfaction with their co-parent and an awareness of their own parenting philosophy;
- Increased parenting and co-parenting skills;
- Increased their involvement with their child;
- Earned their high school diploma and the capacity to apply to an institute of higher education if desired and,
- The experience to obtain a ‘living wage’ position.



“The primary task of every civilization is to teach the young men to be fathers.”

-Margaret Mead