

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department: Social Services

HB Section(s): 11.155

Program Name: Healthy Marriage/Fatherhood

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Healthy Marriage/Fatherhood Initiatives

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Increasing fathers' participation in their children's lives and moving families to economic sustainability

1b. What does this program do?

The Department of Social Services, Family Support Division partners and coordinates with organizations to provide services to fathers to help support their children emotionally and financially by providing access to programs that deliver responsible parenting, healthy marriage, economic stability, and job training skills.

The Responsible Fatherhood projects are designed to provide relationship and parenting skills in addition to access to programs which promote the opportunity for fathers to support their children emotionally and financially. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant funds were appropriated in FY 2017 as a result of the passage of SB 24 (2015, Section 208.067, RSMo.) to support fatherhood program initiatives. The programs listed below are fully or partially supported by the Healthy Marriage/Responsible Fatherhood grants for FY 2021.

The Responsible Fatherhood Programs: provide a responsible fatherhood/parenthood curriculum, as well as supportive services designed to address parenting skills, co-parenting, domestic violence, child support, and provide employment/educational opportunities. The programs also improve the abilities of fathers to support their children. This includes active engagement with child support outreach specialists to facilitate the payment of child support obligations. These funds are awarded on a regional basis and include:

- Region 1: St. Louis Fathers' Support Center (FSC) in metropolitan St. Louis
- Region 2: Connections to Success (CtS) in metropolitan Kansas City
- Region 3: Randolph County Caring Communities Partnership (RCCCP) based in Moberly and serving northern Missouri
- Region 4: Powerhouse Community Development Corporation (PCDC) based in Sedalia and serving central Missouri
- Region 5: Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium (MBRC) based in Sikeston and serving southeast Missouri
- Region 6: Good Dads, Inc. (GD) based in Springfield and serving southwest Missouri

Healthy Families, Court Diversion and Employment-based Fatherhood Initiatives: The following programs address a variety of barriers which affect healthy marriage and responsible parenthood:

The New Pathways for Fathers and Families (NPFF): ARCHS, Saint Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE), and the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court partnership, provide fathers facing contempt charges for nonpayment of child support an alternative to incarceration that includes intensive services in employment readiness and parenting activities. This program is intended to provide fathers with services and support to enable them to successfully comply with child support orders.

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Urban League Transition for Change Employment Program (TFCEP): This employment program with the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis Inc. provides job search and employability skill services that assist participants to move from unemployed to permanently employed. Participants have a maximum of 90 days from enrollment to obtain full-time or part-time employment. The Transition for Change Employment Program incorporates the following practices to achieve the program's goals: readiness assessment, individualized employment plan, coordinated network of services and employers, transitional employment and on the job training, and comprehensive case management.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Pilot Program: This fatherhood pilot program has three parts. The Fatherhood Prevention Program matches 200 young men with a Big Brother or a Big Couple. This program provides opportunities to understand the importance of fatherhood and healthy relationships with peers, and strategies to avoid issues related to early fatherhood, drugs, and alcohol. The ABC Today Schools Program assigns a resource officer in two schools to identify and help high-risk students build a plan to address school and home challenges. These students are matched with a Big Brother/Big Sister mentor and may be referred to the Fatherhood Prevention Program. The First Job Program is an employment program for young men and women designed to help eighth graders prepare for their first job. Young men and women in the Fatherhood Prevention or the ABC Today Schools Programs may also be able to participate in the First Job Program.

Parenting in Partnership Program: A co-parenting program developed by the Fathers & Families Support Center (FFSC) to strengthen families by extending classes and supportive services to mothers. This program seeks to enroll mothers who have a desire to enhance parenting skills and improve co-parenting relationships into the program; to engage mothers in work development and mediation classes; and to incentivize mothers to participate in post-graduation and follow-up services. The program seeks to connect participants to resources that support education, employment/career development, family/child support, health, housing, legal services, mediation/access/visitation, and economic stability. The program also provides incentives for program participation and assistance with transportation for achieving attendance, education and job retention milestones.

Youth Alliance Fatherhood Program: This employment program is operated by the St. Joseph Youth Alliance and the Buchanan County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. The Prosecuting Attorney refers individuals to the Youth Alliance for education and support services, with a focus on employment. Employment support services are based on the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) model, which embraces employment and training services, including supported employment. The program helps participants move from unemployed to permanently employed.

Total Man Community Development Corporation (CDC) Dads Achieving Destiny Successfully (DADS) Program/Kansas City Municipal Court

Reinstatement Court: This program helps noncustodial parents resolve their driver's license suspension issues and resume a consistent pattern of child support payments. The 16th Judicial Court of Missouri- Kansas City Municipal Division refers individuals to Total Man CDC for education and support services, with a focus on employment. The program also assists participants to move from unemployed to permanently employed. Successful participants in Reinstatement Court receive a stay on their driver's license suspension within 30 days of enrollment, with possible termination of the license suspension upon successful completion of the program.

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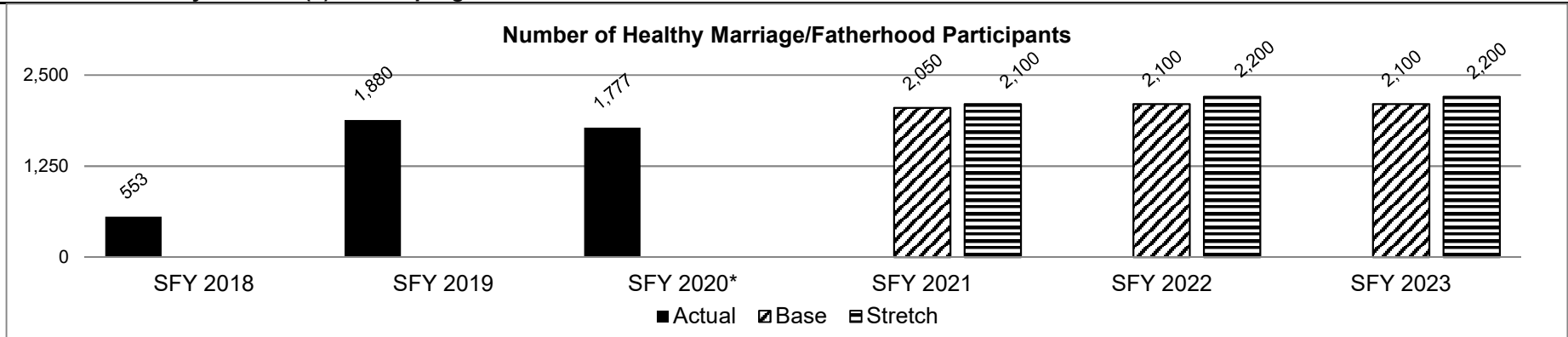
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Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri/Empowering Dads to Gain Employment (EDGE) Program: This employment/fatherhood program with the Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri serves fathers in an eight-county area (Cape Girardeau, Scott, Perry, Bollinger, New Madrid, Dunklin, Pemiscot, and Mississippi counties). The EDGE Program offers fathers comprehensive job assistance that focuses on rapid job search and addresses the post-employment needs of the father for continued employment success. This program also provides responsible parenting resources which include parenting education groups, child support education seminars, mentoring/support groups, and parent/child events.

2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.



* The decline in SFY 2020 can be attributed to COVID-19 and is not expected to continue.

2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.

Quality control within the programs is measured by a customer satisfaction survey, designed by child support administration, and administered by the participating agencies as part of the 180-day interview between the father and the project manager. This is conducted through a pre-survey upon entry into the program and a post-survey of participants during their 90-day review. The questions are designed to determine:

- Overall satisfaction with the services provided
- The degree to which the participant has received the services requested/needed
- Whether such services have made a difference in their ability to interact with their children
- Whether the services provided helped to overcome obstacles in their ability to interact with their children
- Whether they see themselves as better parents

In FY 2020, the post survey was implemented in February 2020. The partial year results yielded a 10.48% completion rate, which is not a large enough sample to yield valid conclusions. The completion rate goal for FY 2021 is 70%.

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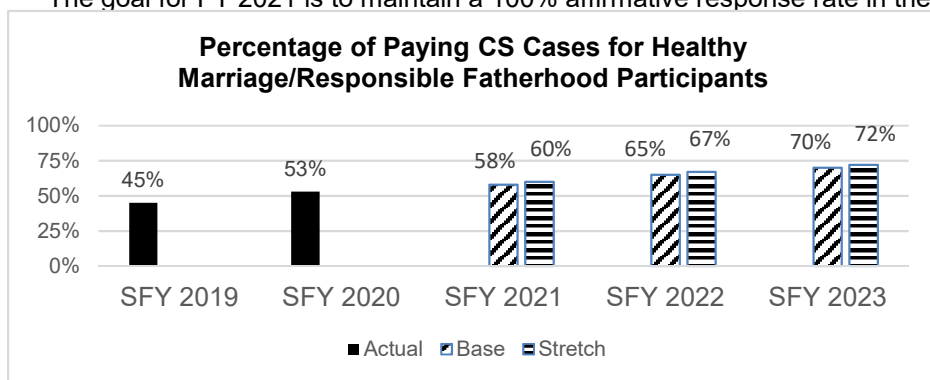
2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.

The FY 2020 customer satisfaction survey is also designed to address issues related to the program's impact as perceived by the participants themselves, as indicated above in 2b.

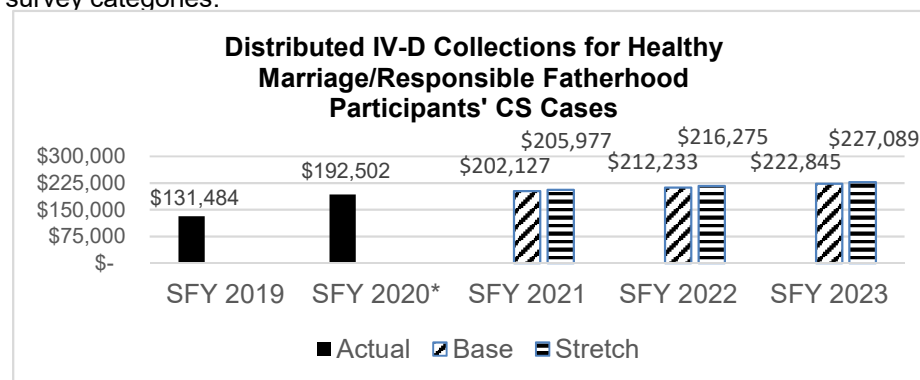
The FY 2020 data reflects a partial year of data as the results reported are based on the post-survey that was implemented in February 2020. Of the responses completed, the percentage of participants that answered "Yes" to the following statements in FY 2020 was 100%.

- "This program has informed me about the child support process."
- "This program has given me the tools to become a more responsible father."

The goal for FY 2021 is to maintain a 100% affirmative response rate in these survey categories.



This is a new measure. There is no data to report prior to SFY 2019. The percentage of paying case represents that portion of our total caseload that is making payments on their child support. We expect that percentage to increase the more we work with the fathers in our programs.



This is a new measure. There is no data to report prior to SFY 2019. This represents the actual amount of child support collected and distributed to the non-custodial party.

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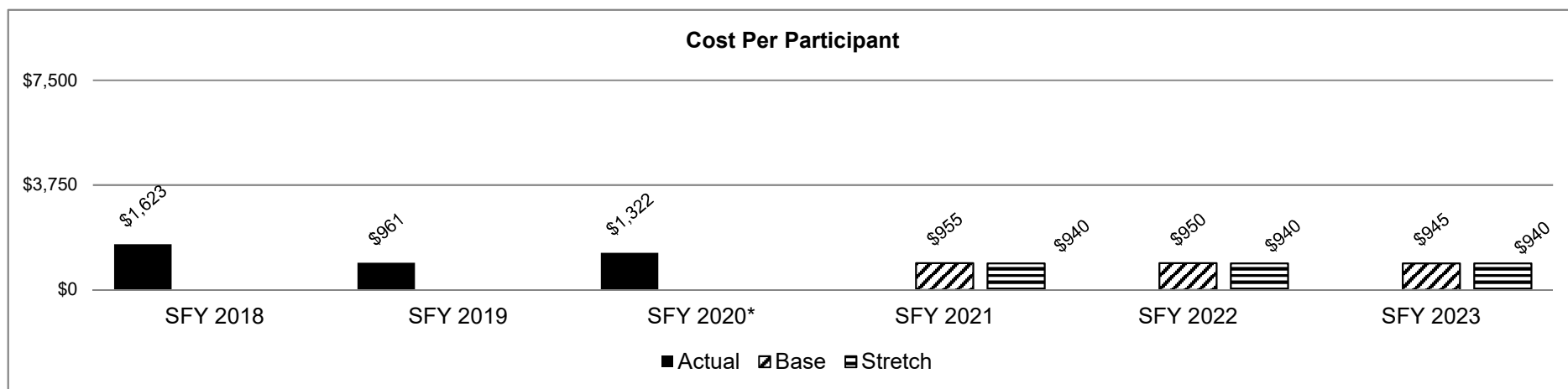
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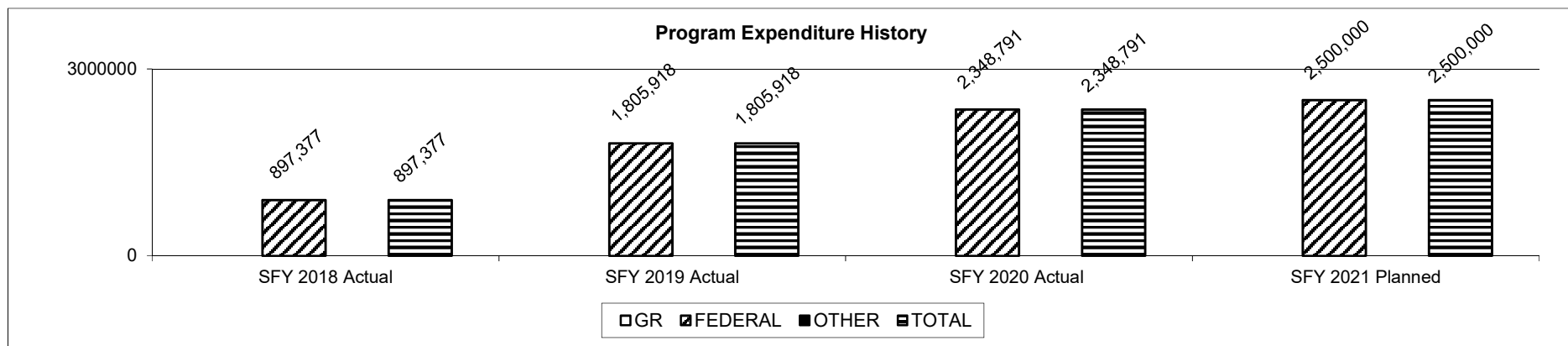
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2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.



* The increase in SFY 2020 can be attributed to COVID-19 and is not expected to continue.

3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



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4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?

N/A

5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)

Healthy Marriage/Fatherhood is authorized by State statute: Section 208.040, RSMo., and Federal law: PL 104-193 and PRWORA of 1996.

6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.

There is a state maintenance of effort required to earn the TANF block grant that pays for the program. Expenditures from other programs also provide state maintenance of effort required to earn the TANF block grant.

7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.

No.