

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## PROGRAM STAFF

Remember to preview the video before showing it to your group. Decide how you want to introduce the session (e.g., “we’re going to watch a short documentary about a program for young fathers; then we’ll talk about our reactions and the issues raised”). Some facilitators like to start with a warm-up activity to help participants feel comfortable with one another. It’s also a good idea to establish ground rules for the video presentation (e.g., “turn off cell phones, save comments or questions for the end”) and the group discussion (e.g., “be respectful at all times, maintain confidentiality”). For more ideas about running an effective session, see *Tips for Facilitators* (downloadable from the *Young Fathers* DVD or available in the DVD handbook).

Many different kinds of programs—workforce development, family support, youth development, juvenile justice, etc.—have participants who could benefit from services aimed at helping them become successful fathers. And many programs serve women who have children with young fathers. Staff may not always be aware of the complicated parenting issues in their participants’ lives—especially the men. The *Young Fathers* video is a vehicle for helping staff learn more about these issues and explore strategies for expanding existing services to better meet young parents’ needs.

### **Objectives:**

After viewing and discussing the video, program staff will be able to:

- Describe the specific needs and concerns of men who are fathers;
- Assess whether participants in their program have similar needs and concerns;
- List specific services that can be helpful to young fathers or mothers;
- Identify at least one action they can take to provide additional assistance to fathers or mothers;
- Identify at least one action their program can take to be supportive of young parents in their agency;
- Identify agencies in the community with which they might form partnerships to better meet the needs of young fathers; and
- Describe how they might use the video as a vehicle for exploring parenting issues with participants in their program.

**Materials:** DVD, DVD player

**Time:** 60 minutes

## Discussion Questions:

⇒ Remember to review the questions and choose a limited number that can work within the time available.

1. What are your reactions to the video?
2. What did you think of the different fathers? How much did you relate to them?
3. How would you describe their relationships with their children? Their experiences with their own fathers? Their goals and dreams for the future?
4. How many fathers are there in your/our program? What are the similarities and differences among the fathers in your/our program?
5. What did you think about Dupree and Monique's situation? How familiar were those relationship dynamics?
6. What concerns and issues about child support did you hear in the video?
7. What did you think of the Fathers at Work program?
8. What do you currently do to support your participants in their role as fathers/parents?
9. What fatherhood services would you ideally like to add to your program?
10. What community agencies might you be able to partner with to provide additional assistance to fathers?
11. What do you/we want to learn more about?
12. Can you see yourself using this video? If so, how? In what context? What kinds of questions would you want to explore with your particular audience?
13. Which of the issues raised in the video would you want to explore further by conducting follow-up activities?
14. What is one thing you will definitely do as a result of seeing this video?