

Non-Custodial Parent (NCP) Choices PEER

OVERVIEW

Launched in late 2010, the PEER pilot took place in three sites in Texas, including Hidalgo County, El Paso, and the Beaumont/Port Arthur region. The PEER pilot is an extension of the original NCP Choices program, and like it, focuses on engaging low-income unemployed non-custodial parents who are already behind on child support payments. In addition to workforce services, PEER offers a curriculum-based peer group meeting.

See [*Non-Custodial Parent Choices Establishment and PEER Pilots: Preliminary Impact Report*](#) for more information.

Focus

Responsible Fatherhood

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Target Population

Low-income, unemployed, and underemployed non-custodial parents who are behind on child support payments

Service Delivery Unit

Individual

Curriculum

The NCP PEER curriculum provides non-custodial parents with knowledge and skills to help them better understand and act in their familial arrangements. The curriculum is divided into two parts: the first is a core curriculum that last for four weekly sessions that aims to help non-custodial parents recognize their obligations to provide child support, and the second is a more advanced curriculum that focuses on parenting skills.

Dosage

Weekly two-hour sessions for four weeks

Setting

Community-Based Organizations

Location

Texas, including Hidalgo County, El Paso, and the Beaumont/Port Arthur region

Adapted and/or Created for Hispanic Population

No

Demographics of Population Served

- 67.2% were Hispanic
- 93.7% were male
- 33.3 years was the average age

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Evaluated Population

189 non-custodial parents

Study Design

- Randomized Control Trial (RCT) experimental evaluation
- Participants were randomly assigned to PEER treatment group or PEER control group
- Follow-up at 3 months for most measures, 6 months for outcomes pertaining to child support and unemployment claims

Outcomes

Jailing rates of non-custodial parents; Payment of child support, Consistent payment of child support; Employment and earnings of non-custodial parents; Additional employment measures; Unemployment insurance claims by non-custodial parents; and Receipt of TANF and other public assistance

Results

- *Jailing rates*
 - There was no significant difference between the NCP Choices PEER group ordered to jail for non-payment of child support and the control group.
- *Payment of child support*
 - Participation was associated with no difference in the frequency of child support collection.
- *Consistent payment of child support*
 - There was a positive impact on consistency of child support payments, but it was only statistically significant on the three out of three months measure.
- *Employment and earnings*
 - There was no significant impact on employment rates or earnings levels.
- Additional employment measures
 - There was no significant impact on other employment measures such as percentage employed, weeks to gain employment, and hourly wage.
- *Unemployment insurance*
 - There was no significant impact on unemployment measures, including the percent of months in which NCPs filed unemployment claims, the percent of months in which NCP received unemployment benefits, the average monthly unemployment benefits received by NCPs, and the percent of time monetarily that the NCP is eligible for unemployment insurance based on earnings.
- *Receipt of TANF and other public assistance*



- There was no significant impact on receipt of TANF or SNAP benefits by custodial parents associated with the NCPs in the program.

Results for Hispanic Subgroups

None reported

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