

## Project Bootstrap

### OVERVIEW

Operating from March 2002 through May 2004, Project Bootstrap was part of the Texas Fragile Families (TFF) Initiative. The purpose of Project Bootstrap was to combine TFF program components such as employment assistance, case management, help with child support orders, and peer support groups, with cash stipends for participation in jobs-skills training. For participating in training, including GED preparation, on-the-job training, structured work searches, and internships, fathers could receive up to \$1,300.

See [\*OPRE Report 2011-20 Catalog of Research: Programs for Low-Income Fathers \(June 2011\)\*](#) for more information.

### Focus

Responsible Fatherhood

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

#### Target Population

Participants were 17 to 25 years old, U.S. citizens, not married to their child's mother, unemployed or underemployed, and establishing or had established a child support order.

#### Service Delivery Unit

Individuals

#### Curriculum

Case management, peer support groups, and employment assistance

#### Dosage

Not available

#### Setting

Community-based organizations, teen health clinics, faith-based organization, and a hospital

#### Location

Texas

#### Adapted and/or Created for Hispanic Population

No

#### Demographics of Population Served

- 40.7% Hispanic

## PROGRAM EVALUATION

### Evaluated Population

Fathers in Project Bootstrap were compared to a matched group of fathers who were not in the program.

### Study Design

Quasi-Experimental Design

### Outcomes

Fathers' economic self-sufficiency; fathers' financial support of children

### Results

- *Fathers' economic self-sufficiency*
  - Fathers in the treatment group were employed for a higher percentage of time compared to those in the comparison group.
  - Fathers in the treatment group had lower monthly earnings on average compared to those in the comparison group, among the employed.
- *Fathers' financial support of children*
  - Fathers in the treatment group made child support payments more often compared to those fathers in the comparison group.
  - Fathers in the treatment group were more likely to consistently pay child support for at least two out of three months compared to those fathers in the comparison group.
  - Custodial mothers associated with fathers in the treatment group spent less time on TANF than did those mothers associated with fathers in the comparison group.
  - There was no difference between the treatment and comparison groups in the average amount of child support paid monthly.
  - There was no difference between the treatment and comparison groups in the proportion of fathers making child support payments in all three months.

### Results for Hispanic Subgroups

None reported

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