

Strength in Families is a Resource for Parents and their Children

“Our children don't need us to be superheroes. They don't need us to be perfect. They do need us to be present. They need us to show up and give it our best shot, no matter what else is going on in our lives. They need us to show them – not just with words, but with deeds – that they, those kids, are always our first priority.”
– President Barack Obama, June 21st, 2010

Mission:

“To partner with reentering parents in the development of skills and knowledge that focus on positive parenting, healthy relationships and economic stability in order for parents to create safe, stable and nurturing environments for children and families.”

Vision:

“We envision children living safely at home, having positive relationships with parents and care-providers, and being supported by families who have the skills and access to resources and services needed to thrive.”

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Strength in Families

A program offered through the
ReFORM Grant

**Responsible
Fatherhood
Opportunities for
Re-entry and
Mobility**



What is it all about?

Research shows that children do better when their fathers are present and a positive influence in their lives. Children with involved, loving dads are more likely to do well in school, have healthy self-esteem, show empathy and pro-social behavior, and avoid high-risk behaviors like drug use, missing school, and committing crime.

The Washington State Department of Corrections has received a ReFORM grant funding from the U.S. Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families to provide a program that supports reentering parents.

The **Strength in Families** program focuses on building skills and knowledge in the following three aim areas:

- ◆ Healthy Relationships with Partners and/or Co-Parents
- ◆ Responsible and Positive Parenting
- ◆ Education and Employment

Who's Eligible?

The program is currently in facilities in southwest Washington for participants releasing to Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Thurston or Pierce Counties. Eligible participants are fathers, or father figures, for one or more children from birth to 24 years old; up to 9 months pre-release; and low income.

These services are available to all eligible persons, regardless of race, gender, age, disability or religion.

How does it benefit me?

Program participants will receive...

Parenting and Healthy Relationship Classes - Participants will take two classes in the facility, *Parenting Inside Out* and *Walking the Line*. After release the participants may take *7 Principles to Making a Marriage Work* (if they are in a relationship) and *Emotion Coaching*, another parenting class.

Employment / Education Services - All participants will receive one on one assistance from an Education & Employment Navigator to help steer them along a path toward self-chosen education and career goals. Participants will also complete the class, *Job Seeking Skills*, prior to release.

Case Management - Each participant will be assigned to a Case Manager who will begin partnering with them and their families in the facility and continue into the community. Case Managers will work with the participant to figure out their personal and family strengths and challenges as well as provide connections to community resources.

How do I apply?

Applications are available from Classification Counselors at the participating facilities: Washington Corrections Center (WCC), Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC), Cedar Creek Corrections Center (CCCC), and Larch Corrections Center (LCC).

Additional Information

- ◆ This program is voluntary.
- ◆ There is no early release for participants in with the **Strength in Families** program.
- ◆ The **Strength in Families** program may include key family members or supporters to assist participants with successful reentry.
- ◆ Participants do not need to be in a partner relationship or returning to live with their children to be eligible.
- ◆ Family reintegration counseling may be available.

