



MAN 2 MAN

MAN 2 MAN COMMUNITY IMPACT OPPORTUNITY

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Founded in 2000, Man 2 Man is a father-focused nonprofit serving men in Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion, and Chesterfield Counties. In 1999, a group of concerned citizens in Marlboro County convened to address one of the most pressing issues of our time—father absence. After they assessed the needs of low-income fathers and developed a holistic plan to address them, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina approved the group's request for funding and Man 2 Man began in 2000 under the umbrella of the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. From 2002-2003 the program operated under the umbrella of Chesterfield Marlboro EEOC. By 2004, the project was flourishing and growing and eventually established a standalone 501c3. Our mission is to help fathers be a positive and consistent presence in their children's lives. Today, Man 2 Man is one of six fatherhood programs in a network reaching across the state to help reconnect fathers and their children and the SC Center for Fathers and Families helps to coordinate this statewide initiative.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Our program is a one-stop center for fathers, with staff and offices located near where the fathers work and live. We take a holistic approach to strengthening fathers and helping them overcome obstacles with a range of education, services, and support to become the best fathers they can be. Our 24-week fatherhood program is one of the most important services we provide. Our core curriculum areas include: 1) Employability Bootcamp which is an intensive session that explores skillsets and career paths and helps fathers expand their networks, prepare resumes, and build interview skills to land the jobs they want; 2) Economic Mobility helps the fathers learn about increasing income, managing money, getting credit, navigating child support, and addressing arrears; 3) Healthy Relationships focuses on the fathers' personal histories and they build relationship skills that can improve life for their children and themselves; 4) Parenting/Co-Parenting helps fathers learn how to co-parent and have positive roles in their children's lives—from providing structure and stability to establishing paternity and visitation rights; and 5) Men's Health teaches fathers how to manage their own physical and mental health so they can thrive and model healthy behaviors for their children. In addition to taking classes, each father in our program works individually with a staff member to create his own One-Man Plan. In this plan, each father sets his goals and creates a road map for reaching them. Also, we've learned from our work that many fathers feel alone in their struggles and some lack good role models for parenting, perhaps because they had no contact with their own fathers. To address this issue, we have Peer Group Sessions as a place for fathers to share their frustrations, learn from



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other fathers, and begin building a positive network of support. Lastly, we have a Jobs Not Jail program which is uniquely designed to help fathers catch up on child support obligations as an alternative to incarceration.

OUTCOME

Since 2014 the program was able to serve 331 fathers in Dillon SC by using the local library to hold sessions for one day per week. The agency received referrals from the Department of Social Services as well as Family Court for fathers that were behind in child support. Due to the pandemic, the library usage has been limited and fathers are unable to benefit from our services at a maximum level. This funding opportunity would expand wholistic services to Dillon County while creating a safe haven for fathers and families to benefit by having an office in the community to address father absence as a root cause of poverty and providing support to needy and at-risk families. During the period when the agency had a more consistent presence in the community, Harbor Freight was able to benefit from our services. We were able to address what they considered one of their biggest problems' which was employee turnover. We were able to provide fatherhood services, life skills development as well as workforce mentorship to employees of Harbor Freight. We were also able to reduce the amount of time of children in foster care by mentoring and providing family support and sessions to families whose children had been removed due to findings of abuse or neglect. Having a local office in Dillon SC will greatly benefit families and fathers in the local community, also allows family court to have a place to send fathers that are unemployed or underemployed, as well as provide a great asset to social service institutions and agencies seeking support and resources for fathers.

CONTACT

Derrick Dease, Executive Director
Cell: (843)535-1493
Email: derrick@man2manfathers.org
<https://www.man2manfathers.com/>

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Man 2 Man Dillon County Budget Proposal

| | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Total |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| PERSONNEL | | | | |
| Intervention Specialist | 38,000 | 39,140 | 40,314 | 117,454 |
| Intervention Specialist | 38,000 | 39,140 | 40,314 | 117,454 |
| | 76,000 | 78,280 | 80,628 | 234,908 |
| Benefits (~21% of Sal) | 15,960 | 16,439 | 16,932 | 49,331 |
| Total Salary & Benefits | 91,960 | 94,719 | 97,560 | 284,239 |