

## **Expanded Family Support Initiatives**

*Objective 7.2—Increase the number of non-traditional MCH populations participating in Title V funded initiatives by 10% by 2030.*

**Fatherhood Supports:** During the summer and fall of 2024, interns with Title V developed a comprehensive list of fatherhood-focused programs across the state. Several of these programs were then selected by the intern to participate in a key informant interview. The interviews were designed to develop an understanding of the services each agency offered, the gaps they saw in supports for fathers, and the ways they envisioned that Title V could assist them in their efforts. Over the next year, the Title V team will conduct focus groups with fathers around the state to learn more about the supports needed to be prepared for fatherhood and throughout the parenting process.

**Fatherhood Work Group in the FAC:** In early 2025, the Family Advisory Council (FAC) welcomed its first father member and launched a dedicated fatherhood workgroup. Over the coming year, the Family Systems Consultant, with support from the Title V Directors, will lead strategic recruitment efforts to expand the participation of fathers and other underrepresented caregivers within the FAC—broadening engagement beyond those traditionally included in the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) population.

**Fatherhood Partner Network:** Over the next year, Title V will establish a statewide Fatherhood Partner Network to promote sustained communication, peer learning, and collaborative planning among organizations serving fathers. This network will function as a platform for sharing best practices, addressing shared challenges, and aligning efforts to enhance support for fathers across diverse communities.

By fostering relationship-building and knowledge exchange, the network will strengthen the collective impact of fatherhood initiatives throughout the state. To ensure equitable participation, mini-grants or stipends will be provided to community-based partners—particularly those in underserved or rural areas—to support their engagement in network meetings, activities, and co-led initiatives.

**Father Engagement in BaM:** The KDHE Becoming a Mom (BaM) Program Manager and Family Systems Consultant will partner to increase participation of fathers and other support persons in the Becoming a Mom®/Comenzando bien® (BaM/Cb) prenatal education program alongside mothers. This collaboration aims to enhance the knowledge and confidence of fathers and support persons and strengthen their ability to support the mother during pregnancy and beyond. This level of support aims to greatly enhance the overall strength and well-being of the family unit through education, increased confidence, and improved knowledge of and access to resources and support.