



The Father Center of New Jersey

1 West State Street, Floor 5, Trenton, NJ 08608
(609) 695-3663 | thefathercenter.org

Date of Testimony: March 10, 2025

Bryan Evans, CEO of The Father Center of New Jersey

Assembly Committee on Children, Families & Food Security: Chairwoman Shama Haider, Vice Chair Spearman, Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, and Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee,

As CEO of The Father Center of New Jersey, I am thrilled to express our enthusiastic support for Assembly Bill A4365, the Community Recovery & Family Success Act. This landmark legislation perfectly aligns with our organization's longstanding commitment to helping men gain the skills and meet the responsibilities of fatherhood including prevention, early intervention, and robust family support initiatives across New Jersey.

As proud members of the Family Success Institute Learning Community, we see firsthand the effectiveness of collaborative, community-based efforts. We strongly support the establishment of the Council for Community Recovery and Family Success and the dedicated funding allocated in this bill, as it will systematically address the underlying issues of family instability and crisis.

Proactive family support services are far more effective and efficient than fragmented, reactive services. Our initiatives in employment, mentoring, parenting education, and holistic family support services exemplify the preventive approach advocated in this legislation.

We also believe the integrated focus on positive family relationships, safety, financial security, education, and overall health and wellness outlined in this bill will significantly benefit communities we serve. Investing proactively in families, as outlined in A4365, will not only promote family success but also represents sound fiscal management by reducing the long-term need for costly crisis intervention.

We urge you to support this crucial legislation. We're eager to collaborate closely with the council created by this Act and our partners in the Family Success Institute Learning Community to advance the vision of stronger families and resilient communities across New Jersey.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important legislation and your ongoing dedication to strengthening New Jersey's families.

Respectfully,

Bryan Evans
Chief Executive Officer