



National Compadres Network

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The **National Compadres Network** is a national effort whose focus is the reinforcement of the positive involvement of Chicano/Latino/Native males in the lives of their families and community. As a non-profit, 501 c-3 organization, the mission of the National Compadres Network (NCN) has been to strengthen, rebalance, and redevelop the traditional "Compadre" extended kinship network by encouraging, supporting and re-rooting the positive involvement of males in their families and community and preventing/reducing the incidence of family and community violence, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and other oppressive behaviors.

As a result of the overwhelming need locally and nationally, NCN launched the **National Latino Fatherhood & Family Institute** (NLFFI). NLFFI serves as its training, technical assistance, policy, advocacy, research and evaluation arm to assist local and national organizations to develop and implement programs that are culturally competent and draw from the resiliency of Chicano/Latino/Native families and communities. While NLFFI's primary focus is directed to the Chicano/Latino/Native population, the organization has a long history of collaborating with organizations and communities of diverse ethnic backgrounds and is committed to providing services to all boys and men, families and communities. Additional information about our organization, services and resources can be found on our website at: <http://www.nationalcompadresnetwork.org>. <http://www.nlffi.org>

Training and Technical Assistance Services

NLFFI brings together culturally competent nationally recognized leaders in the fields of fatherhood, rites of passage, health, education, family violence, teen pregnancy prevention, cultural competence, juvenile justice, social services, advocacy, trauma, healing and evidence based research. . NLFFI works in partnership with community leaders and decision makers to create strategic and sustainable systems of change and provides support in the areas of: training; technical assistance; collective impact building; research; leadership development; and resource and material development.

I. Community Healing and Leadership Development Initiatives

A. The Healing Generations Project

Overview: *The Healing Generations Project* expands NLFFI's work to communities that have expressed interest in NLFFI's racial and community healing strategies to address persistent community strife and concerns through culturally responsive interventions; and amplifies the intervention to promote familial-community healing through retreats, gatherings and the incorporation of indigenous culturally based practices. NLFFI works with communities to expand this effort through the development of a multi-tier approach.

- Elders of Color Statewide and Local Network Councils.
- Trauma Informed, Healing Informed Practices
- La Cultura Cura- Cultural Based Youth Development and Rites of Passage Interventions
- "Circulo" Extended Kinship Support and Healing Groups

As a result of the inter-generational healing these communities will begin to coalesce a common voice that advocates for better health/educational outcomes for children, a unified stance against abuse of children and young people, a strong voice against all forms of violence (familial and community), and a leveraging of new resources to support these goals from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

B. Community Fatherhood Initiative

The goal of the California Fatherhood Initiative (CFI) is to bring together organizations, government entities, professionals, law enforcement, legislators and community advocates that have a vested interest in improving the lives of children, families and communities through positive fatherhood involvement and youth mentorship. CFI's efforts create a unified voice across California to ensure state agencies and departments include services for fathers and young men as a part of their efforts and that organizations throughout the state develop services that are built to serve fathers based on their cultural strengths.

C. Respetar y Leer Campaign - Men Standing Up Against Family Violence and Sitting Down to Read to their Children:

- Reduce the incidence of domestic violence in Chicano/Latino homes. There is a need for men to collectively stand up against family violence.
- Increase the positive involvement of Chicano/Latino Males with the children of our community. Through reading, storytelling and positive involvement of fathers, grandfathers, uncles, older brothers, Compadres and other significant males in the lives of children in the community.
- Increase the high school graduation rate of Chicano/Latino Children.

D. Men and Women of Honor- War Veterans and their Families Awareness and Healing Campaign. In conjunction with the California G.I. Forum the goal of *Men and Women of Honor* is to improve the ability of War Veterans to develop and maintain healthy and fulfilling partner and family relationships by:

- Providing to veterans and their partners presentations on issues and resources related to preventing family violence while developing and maintaining healthy and fulfilling partner and family relationships.
- Increasing the awareness of veterans and their partners as to how the residual effects of the war trauma unresolved can negatively affect their relationships.
- Increasing the awareness of participants in reference to skills that can assist them in healing trauma related to behaviors that could negatively affect their relationships.
- Increasing the veteran's awareness of community and online resources available to them that can serve to support their effort to heal unresolved trauma, prevent family violence and maintain healthy and fulfilling partner and family relationships.

II. Community and Organizational Capacity Building

Overview: NCN works with organizations, staff and program leaders and offers culturally competent training and technical assistance in the areas of:

- Culturally Focused Organizational Capacity Building;
- Culturally Competent Community Engagement;
- Program Development; and Inclusion of Trauma Informed Culturally Based Practices
- Culturally-Based Research and Evaluation
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III. Policies and Services to Promote Systems Change

Overview The goal is to increase policy related knowledge of organizations at the local, state, and national level that serve boys, fathers, families and communities and influence the direction of the fatherhood/male involvement efforts in order to:

(a) identify existing policy gaps that prevent the development of effective culturally competent fatherhood and male involvement programs and

(b) develop positive culturally competent fatherhood and male involvement policies and programs that build on the cultural strengths of fathers and other male mentors

IV. Culturally Based Curricula

NLFFI has a strong history of successful grant management and program implementation, which have resulted in model programs that have received formal recognition in many communities across the nation. NCN has developed effective and industry recognized training, technical assistance and curriculum models that are currently in place nationwide.

El Joven Noble – The Noble Young Man Rites of Passage Character Development Program

Overview: *El Joven Noble* is a comprehensive indigenous based, youth leadership development program that supports and guides young men through their manhood "rites of passage" process while focusing on the prevention of substance abuse, teen pregnancy, relationship violence, gang violence and school failure.

Cara Y Corazón – Face and Heart Family Strengthening Program

Overview: *Cara y Corazón* is a culturally based family strengthening/community mobilization program that assists parents and other extended family to raise and teach their children with a positive bicultural base.

Padres con Cara y Corazón – Fathers with Face and Heart

Overview: *Padres con Cara Y Corazón* program focuses at guiding and supporting fathers to develop an active, positive, nurturing relationship with their children while assisting them to deal with the day to day struggles of fatherhood.

Raising Children with P.R.I.D.E.: A Teen Fatherhood Program

Overview: *Raising Children with PRIDE* is comprehensive multi-culturally based young fatherhood program (co-authored by Dr. Marilyn Steele) that assists new or expectant fathers to be positive influences in the lives of children and family while assisting them in dealing with the multitude of challenges they face.

Hombres Noble Buscando Balance – Nobel Men Looking for Balance

Overview: *El Hombre Noble Buscando Balance* is a Domestic Violence intervention process with the goal of guiding men towards Family Harmony and their Healing from Family Violence. This comprehensive culturally based intervention program (co-authored by Dr. Ricardo Carillo, Samuel Martinez and Rolando Reyna Goubeau) is focused at working with men who have relationship violence as an issue in their life.

Mama's Love- Mothers Raising Honorable Boys

Overview: A curriculum focused at assisting mothers to develop a positive relationship with their sons and guide their sons to be honorable young men.

Fire and Water

Overview: The Fire and Water curriculum is a segment of the overall Joven Noble rites of passage program that works with young people that have major issues of anger/violence (fire) and substance abuse (water).

IV. **Culturally Competent Resource Materials**

Bilingual/Bicultural Brochures on the following topics:

- Male Health
- Sexual Health
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Preventing Male Cancers
- Detecting Diabetes
- Avoiding Alcoholism
- Substance Abuse
- Preventing HIV/AIDS
- Fatherhood Lessons

Latino Fatherhood Tools

- Fatherhood Toolkit
- Fatherhood Posters:
 - A Noble Man
 - A True Macho
 - Native American Fatherhood

National Compadres Network

National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute

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