

R.I.S.E.

Fathering Initiative

The "Fathering Initiative" was established in 2002. Since its inception, the program has seen hundreds of fathers complete the program. The program is funded and supported by the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development. The purpose of the program is to provide guidance and direction to fathers regardless of age in providing both financial and material support to their children. More importantly, the fathers will give their time which may translate into improving their relationships with their children.

The program offers the following:

- a. Group Counseling; Conflict Resolution; Mentoring; Individual/Family Counseling; Recreation; Visitation (including Supervised); Parent/Child Rearing.

Fathering History Q&A

- a. How are you recruiting participants into the program? R.I.S.E. is a staple in the community. We have been providing educational and recreational activities for over twenty four years. Our programs include youth, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends. We have an outstanding mentorship program, which receives many referrals as well. In addition R.I.S.E. works in conjunction with Queens Child Guidance providing programs through the Basie Beacon Program.
- b. Are you getting outside or internal referrals? R.I.S.E. receives referrals from the local high schools. We also receive referrals from other community organizations and churches. Word of mouth has been our cornerstone since the programs inception.
- c. Who are the participants and where are they from? Most of the participants are from the Jamaica and other parts of Queens, but others are Brooklyn and Long Island.
- d. What is your connection to the target population of program? R.I.S.E. is an organization with an excellent reputation that the community trusts. We have served generations in some families. Older siblings are quick to introduce their younger brothers and sisters to R.I.S.E. and the process continues.
- e. What is the hook to your program? R.I.S.E. has a strong reputation, modern philosophy, and a history of getting results with participants. We create educational and employment opportunities. In addition R.I.S.E. provides an excellent mentorship and counseling program. The bottom line is we have been consistent for so many years there is a major trust factor
- f. How does the program design lead to or relate to achievement of outcome and participant's personal goal(s)? The program is designed to bring participants along at a rapid pace including teaching life skills and general parental involvement.
- g. How often do you use program design and /or operational work-program to guide decision-making and/or monitor implementation during the year? We are constantly looking at the program design monitoring participants to get the maximum results from the program. Bi-weekly staff meetings are held to evaluate program and its outcomes.
- h. What arrangements have you made to provide and maintain services? We work closely with are linked organizations to insure that consistent programming is given each week. We also train and retrain our staff on a regular basis to insure that they are kept up to date.
- i. Do staff qualifications and staff development activities support a holistic approach in delivering program services? A holistic approach is factored into the programming. Staff consider other factors as well including street history, educational level, and parental make-up.
- j. Does your staff, linkages and support organizations know what you are trying to do and its impact on the existing value of the program? Yes, our staff and other linked organizations are very aware of the objectives of the program. Outcomes are made very clear.
- k. Does your organization use volunteers in providing program services to participants? Almost all of our staff are volunteers. R.I.S.E. is known for having a volunteer staff in place. We very rarely pay salaries. The core of our staff has been together for more than 20 years.
- l. How does the Board function in conjunction to program? The Board meets four times a year and is involved in the planning of the program. The Board also approves the budget.