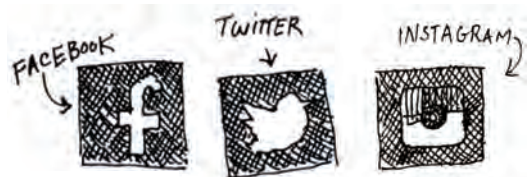


#DadBeThere

Fatherhood Initiative

PART OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY'S
SAFER COMMUNITIES



Westchester
gov.com

Robert P. Astorino, County Executive
Kevin M. McGuire, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

#DadBeThere



“The role of a father is critically important. Families are stronger when a dad is actively involved, and society is stronger as a result.”

Robert P. Astorino, Father and Westchester County Executive



Thank you for your interest in Westchester County's Fatherhood Initiative, part of our Safer Communities. As the father of three young children, I know there is no more important job than being a dad.

Yet sadly, today nearly half of all children in the United States are born to single mothers.

Statistics show that children growing up without a father at home are more likely to live in poverty, underperform in school, suffer child abuse, get involved in drugs and alcohol, spend time in prison and get pregnant. The fundamental key to making our communities safer is making our families stronger.

The Fatherhood Initiative is intended to reach all dads, from those who are present in the home to those who are not. On the one hand, we are celebrating fathers and creating opportunities for dads and kids to spend quality time together. On the other hand, we are sending a powerful message to absent fathers: Your child needs you.

In these pages you will learn more about the ways we are helping fathers, especially noncustodial dads, live up to their responsibilities as parents, offering programs ranging from child support assistance and parenting workshops to job training and employment opportunities.

I call on all dads to be there for their children – no excuses. And I invite them to share their proud fathering moments on social media using the hashtag #DadBeThere. The more we show the world why dads matter, the stronger and safer our communities will be.

Sincerely,

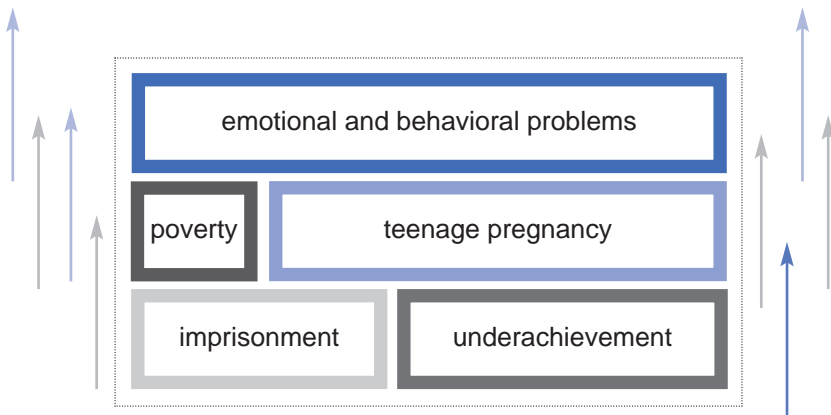
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert P. Astorino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Robert P. Astorino

Father and Westchester County Executive

Statistics don't lie.

**24 million children in America - 1 out of 3 -
live without their biological dad in the
home, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.**



Research shows when a **child is raised without a dad in the home, he or she is:**

- Four times more likely to be poor.
- More likely to suffer emotional/behavioral problems.
- More likely to end up in prison – one in five prison inmates had a father in prison.
- Twice as likely to repeat a grade in school.

Westchester's Fatherhood Initiative targets the full spectrum of dads, from those who are present in the home to those who are not.

So make the time.
#DadBeThere

Highlights include:

- Fun activities that help bring dads and families together
- Career counseling and job placement assistance
- Child support assistance
- Annual Fathering Conference
- Dads Take Your Child to School Day
- Social media campaigns and giveaways



Child Support Awareness Month



Father's Day Bicycle Sunday



Dad Take Your Child to School

Let's connect.
#DadBeThere



New York Fathering Conference

No ex

cuses.



**Announcing the Westchester R.E.A.L.
Parenting Pilot Project for Stronger Families...**

Responsible. Employed.

**The Westchester County Department
of Social Services has an important goal:**

We wish to engage a minimum of 20 noncustodial fathers* who are unemployed or underemployed and are behind on their monthly child support obligations.

Active. Loving.

Eligible fathers will be offered opportunities in:

- Job searches and services to address barriers to employment
- Child support assistance
- Parenting workshops and increased involvement with their kids
- A designated DSS **“Fatherhood Navigator”** who will be tasked with working with dads – one-on-one.

** Noncustodial mothers may also be eligible.*

Contact us. #DadBeThere

To learn more about the R.E.A.L. Parenting Pilot Project, please contact:

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Deputy Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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REGINALD LOCKHART

Fatherhood Navigator

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Join the conversation. #DadBeThere

Take **selfies**, reflect on a moment, **celebrate** a positive change, make time, **tweet** it out, reach deep, **share** your thoughts, tell your kids they are important – you can have a lasting and positive **impact**.

Westchester County has a vast network of support and informational resources designed to assist families and children. Visit westchestergov.com/dadbethere for all the latest.

Department of Social Services

(914) 995-5000

westchestergov.com/socialservices

- Child welfare services
- Adult protective services
- Food assistance
- Medical assistance
- Daycare
- Home heating assistance
- Emergency & housing assistance
- Cash assistance
- Child support

Westchester-Putnam One-Stop Employment Center

(914) 995-3910

westchesterputnamonestop.com

- Job postings
- Workshops and training
- Computer stations
- Internet connections
- Employment counselors
- Job fairs and events

Department of Community Mental Health

(914) 995-5220

westchestergov.com/mentalhealth

- Mental illness referrals
- Drug and alcohol treatment
- Autism awareness
- Developmental disabilities assistance

Department of Health

(914) 813-5000

westchestergov.com/health

- Free immunizations
- Breastfeeding resources
- Health insurance enrollment
- Free STD testing
- Disease prevention
- Public education

Westchester County Youth Bureau

(914) 995-2760

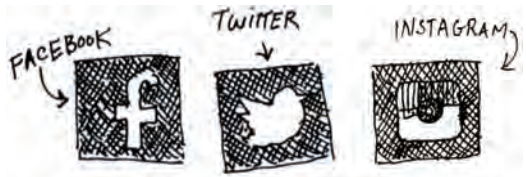
westchestergov.com/youth

- Community Service Awards
- ACE Challenge
- STEM programs
- Youth program funding



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