

THE WHITE HOUSE
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CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

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Judith M. Gueron, *President*

May 6, 1994

Ms. Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Carol:

It is a pleasure to share with you the enclosed report on the nine-state pilot phase of the Parents' Fair Share Demonstration (PFS), which is directed at noncustodial parents (mostly fathers) of children on welfare. PFS provides these parents with employment and training services, peer training in parenting and the rights and responsibilities of noncustodial parents, mediation, and other services. It aims to increase the participants' earnings and involvement with their children, and then to translate these outcomes into increased child support payments that can reduce public welfare spending and, ultimately, improve the children's lives.

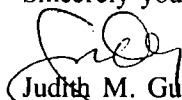
PFS is getting national attention partly because it is recognized that increased child support payments can be a powerful tool for cutting welfare costs and reducing child poverty. But the project's importance extends far beyond child support collection and poverty reduction. It is also an opportunity to learn what works for disadvantaged men with parental responsibilities who have experienced repeated spells of unemployment and an overall decline in earnings over the last two decades. The project also recognizes the valuable role that fathers can play in the lives of their children.

The PFS pilot phase was supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Ford Foundation, the AT&T Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Northwest Area Foundation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Labor. The goals of the pilot phase were to assess the operational feasibility and promise of the PFS approach, and to learn more about the target population, a group of men much disparaged but rarely studied.

Overall, as detailed in the report, the pilot experience was positive. States were successful in getting PFS programs up and running, identifying nonpaying parents and referring them for services, and engaging them in program activities. Many of the parents participated actively in PFS employment and training activities, as well as in the program's peer support groups. These positive early results provided the basis for PFS's moving into its second phase, involving a rigorous test of the program's impacts and cost-effectiveness.

I hope you find this report of interest, and as always, I welcome your comments and reactions.

Sincerely yours,


Judith M. Gueron
President
JMG/yv

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**MATCHING
OPPORTUNITIES
TO OBLIGATIONS:**

**Lessons for
Child Support
Reform from
the Parents'
Fair Share
Pilot Phase**

**Dan Bloom
Kay Sherwood**

**Manpower
Demonstration
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April 1994

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