

**The RIDGE Project Awarded Federal Grants for Statewide Project**

Defiance, Ohio. The RIDGE Project was recently awarded two grants from the Administration of Children and Families/Office of Family Assistance, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Community-Centered Responsible Fatherhood Ex-Prisoner Reentry Pilot Project and Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood).

Over the past five years The RIDGE Project has implemented a family-centered prisoner re-entry program funded through a Promoting Responsible Fatherhood grant from OFA. The program has targeted serving incarcerated fathers and their families. Since beginning this program, The RIDGE Project has achieved notable reductions recidivism and increases in responsible parenting, fatherhood, marriage and relational skills. The RIDGE Project has twice been recognized in publications from the Department of Health and Human Services as a Promising Practice, and was recently designated a Best Practice. In addition, The RIDGE Project and its founders, Ron and Catherine Tijerina, have received numerous awards for the work done, including a commendation by the Ohio Senate and the Smart Marriages Impact Award.

“We are looking forward to mobilizing the entire state of Ohio to end the epidemic of generational incarceration,” says RIDGE Project Director Ron Tijerina. “We have had a great partnership with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, and look forward to significantly expanding our scope and the level of service that we are able to provide our clients and their families with.” The new funding will allow the RIDGE project to serve approximately ten times as many clients annually.

For the complete list of grantees visit:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2011/Grantawards2011.html>.

For more information, please contact 419-782-1511 or email [info@theridgeproject.com](mailto:info@theridgeproject.com).

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