



## Strengthening the Implementation of Responsible Fatherhood Programs

**MDRC's Strengthening the Implementation of Responsible Fatherhood Programs (SIRF)** will work closely with programs to identify and overcome the challenges they face, such as recruiting fathers, enrolling them in services, and keeping them actively engaged in services so they can realize their goals.

SIRF, in partnership with these programs, will identify and help implement possible solutions, examine those effects on the program, and make adjustments when needed. The process can be repeated as required over the course of the project, depending on the intensity and scope of changes. These processes and adjustments are examples of rapid learning methods and are sometimes called “rapid cycle evaluations” or “learning cycles.”

SIRF will produce usable, broadly applicable lessons to inform emerging best practices in recruiting, engaging, and retaining fatherhood participants, as well as methods for implementing rapid cycle evaluations within Responsible Fatherhood programs.

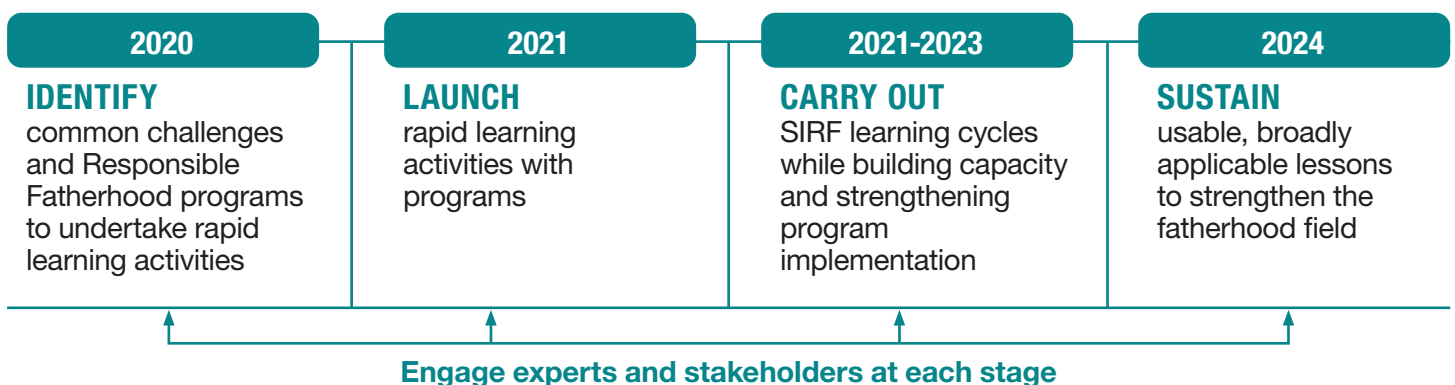
### The Learning Cycles

The SIRF learning cycles will vary in their designs, timeframes, and level of program staff involvement. In all cases, though, they will rely on program input in identifying common challenges and brainstorming potential solutions to test.

The learning cycle process includes funding for programs to collaborate with MDRC and its partners by:

- examining program data to identify a problem and consider potential solutions (**LEARN**)
- supporting implementation of chosen solutions (**DO**)
- examining the results to decide on next steps (**REFLECT**)

### SIRF at a Glance



To learn more about SIRF or to nominate a fatherhood program for participation, email [SIRF@mdrc.org](mailto:SIRF@mdrc.org).

**FUNDING** Sponsored by the Office of Family Assistance and overseen by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

**PARTNERS** MDRC, MEF Associates, Insight Policy Research