

# NHMRC Webinar

## Join Us!

The National Healthy Marriage Resource Center (NHMRC) will host a webinar entitled, **“From Research to Practice: Examining New Findings on Marriage and Relationship Education Programs,”** on **Wednesday, June 30, 2010, from 1:00 – 2:30pm (Eastern Daylight Time).**

What do we know about the effectiveness of marriage and relationship education programs, and what have we learned about how to best design and implement them? Speakers at this webinar will discuss new research from evaluations of two large-scale federally funded studies, as well as a new meta analysis that synthesizes findings from more than a decade of research on the implementation and impact of these initiatives.

### Presenters for this webinar are:

- **Alan Hawkins, Ph.D., Professor of Family Life, Brigham Young University,** will discuss a newly completed synthesis entitled “What Works in Marriage and Relationship Education? A Review of Lessons Learned with a Focus on Low-Income Couples.” Professor Hawkins’ current research focuses on educational and policy interventions to help couples form and sustain healthy marriages and relationships; he has published widely on this topic in leading journals. In 2003-2004, he was a visiting scholar with the federal Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families working on the federal Healthy Marriage Initiative and was the Research Director for the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center from 2004-2006. He currently serves as Chair of the Utah Healthy Marriage Initiative. Professor Hawkins earned a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies from The Pennsylvania State University.
- **Robert Wood, Ph.D., Senior Economist, Mathematica Policy Research,** will describe early impact findings from the Building Strong Families program, an ACF-funded study of a relationship skills building program that included over 5,000 low-income unmarried parenting couples. Dr. Wood currently serves as principal investigator for the national Building Strong Families evaluation. He also serves as a principal investigator for the What Works Clearinghouse at MDRC, where he oversees the systematic review of the literature on the effectiveness of dropout prevention programs. Wood’s past work has focused on the economic progress of welfare recipients and has examined particular segments of the welfare population, including disconnected TANF leavers and child-only welfare cases. He has also studied strategies for improving the outcomes of teenage parents. Dr. Wood holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.
- **Jennifer Miller Gaubert, Operations Associate, MDRC,** will present findings from the implementation study of the Supporting Healthy Marriage program, an eight-site relationship education program funded by ACF that is serving low-income married couples. Ms. Gaubert leads the implementation research study for the Supporting Healthy Marriage project, and serves as a lead operations team member. With expertise in implementation

research, site selection and development, and program operations and management, she has contributed to several MDRC projects including the Jobs-Plus Revitalization Initiative for Public Housing Families, the Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count initiative, the University of California Office of the President Welfare Policy Reform Project, and the Work Advancement and Support Center demonstration. She holds a Masters in Public Policy from the University of California-Berkeley.

- **Rich Batten, Program Manager, National Healthy Marriage Resource Center (NHMRC)**, will moderate this session. Mr. Batten has more than 20 years of experience as a collaborative and strategic leader committed to improving the well being of marriages, families and communities. Most recently, he served as a Family and Fatherhood Specialist with the Colorado Department of Human Services. In this role, he developed collaborative relationships between healthy marriage programs, domestic violence programs, fatherhood programs, child welfare, child support enforcement, and the Department of Corrections. Batten has been a Certified Family Life Educator since 1998 and is an experienced instructor of numerous marriage and parenting curriculums. He earned a Master of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a Master of Education from Loyola University in Chicago.

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### **Questions?**

Please address any questions about logistics to Jill Scollan at [jscollan@icfi.com](mailto:jscollan@icfi.com) or 703-225-2314.