

Kane County Health Department Parent Cafés to Welcome Fathers and Male Caregivers

The Kane County Health Department announced its Parent Cafés will continue in 2026 with a new focus on encouraging fathers and other male caregivers to participate.

As part of this effort, some Parent Cafés will be facilitated by male hosts to help create spaces where fathers and male caregivers feel represented, supported, and comfortable sharing their experiences.

Parent Cafés have traditionally been attended primarily by mothers and female caregivers. As the program grows, KCHD is intentionally expanding outreach to ensure that fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other male caregivers know they are welcome and that their voices and perspectives are valued.

“Strong families are built when all caregivers are supported and heard,” said Michael Isaacson, Executive Director of the Kane County Health Department. “By increasing opportunities for fathers and male caregivers to participate—and by including male facilitators—we are creating more inclusive spaces that better reflect the families and communities we serve.”

Parent Cafés are free, facilitated conversations that provide a supportive, judgment-free space for parents and caregivers to share experiences, build connections, and strengthen families. The program is grounded in the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors framework, which focuses on building parental resilience, social connections, and concrete supports for families.

Fathers and male caregivers play a critical role in children’s development and overall family well-being. By encouraging male participation and leadership within Parent Cafés, KCHD aims to ensure the program reflects the diverse caregivers raising children across Kane County.

The Parent Café program is offered in partnership with Enriching Partnerships for Early Learning (EPEL), Birth to Five Illinois, and School District U-46. Parent Cafés are available in person and virtually, in both English and Spanish, with groups offered in Aurora, Elgin, and other locations throughout Kane County.

The 2026 Parent Café calendar, including dates, times, locations, and additional information, is available at www.kanehealth.com/Pages/Parent-Cafe.aspx.