Parent Engagement and Leadership Assessment Tool

Questions for Grantmakers, Policy Advocates & Capacity-builders

QUESTIONS FOR GRANTMAKERS, POLICY ADVOCATES, AND CAPACITY-BUILDERS			
PILLAR 1: FAMILY-CENTERED Agencies prioritize and champion engaging parents as partners and leaders as a central strategy to achieving positive, equitable outcomes for children and their families.			
Commitment	**Capacity**	**Practice**	**Influence**
How does the agency promote family-centered approaches in its areas of influence? How does the agency's strategic plan advance family-centered, strengths-based approaches? Does the agency's budget allocate sufficient resources to implement family-centered approaches?	How does the agency build capacity for family-centered approaches in its areas of influence? What are the resources offered to those organizations, initiatives, and systems in the agency's area of influence? How does the agency know that the capacity-building resources and strategies are having the desired impact?	How does the agency advance the practice of family-centered approaches in its areas of influence? What are the strategies for advancing these practices? For example, does grantmaking strategy provide guidelines or require grantees to engage parents in authentic ways? How does the agency model the practices it encourages?	How does the agency itself engage parents? What opportunities exist for parents to provide feedback, contribute to planning, and otherwise influence the agency's priorities, programs, and budget? How does the agency develop or contribute to the development opportunities for parents to become leaders?

Notes & Observations

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PILLAR 2: EQUITY-DRIVEN Agencies make it a priority to understand families' experiences and break down barriers created by systemic, institutional, and individual racism.			
Commitment	**Capacity**	**Practice**	**Influence**
How does the agency promote equity-driven approaches in its areas of influence? How does the agency's strategic plan advance equity, diversity, and inclusion both internally and externally? Does the agency's budget allocate sufficient resources to implement equity-driven approaches?	How does the agency build capacity for equity-driven approaches in its areas of influence? What are the resources offered to those organizations, initiatives, and systems in the agency's area of influence? How does the agency know that the capacity-building resources and strategies are having the desired impact?	How does the agency advance the practice of equity-driven approaches in its areas of influence? What are the strategies for advancing these practices? For example, does grantmaking strategy provide guidelines or require grantees to have an equity-driven approach? How does the agency model the practices it encourages?	How does the agency itself engage parents around equity issues? What opportunities exist for parents to provide feedback, contribute to planning, and otherwise influence the agency's approach to equity issues? How does the agency develop or contribute to the development opportunities for parents to become leaders for equity, diversity, and inclusion?

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PILLAR 3: COLLABORATIVE Agencies develop strong partnerships with parents and parent-led organizations to support families to build their power, develop their leadership, and advocate for their children and community.			
Commitment	**Capacity**	**Practice**	**Influence**
How does the agency promote collaboration with parent leaders and parent-led organizations in its areas of influence? How does the agency's strategic plan advance collaboration with parent leaders and parent-led organizations both internally and externally? Does the agency's budget allocate sufficient resources to implement collaborative approaches?	How does the agency build capacity for collaborative approaches in its areas of influence? What are the resources offered to those organizations, initiatives, and systems in the agency's area of influence? How does the agency know that the capacity-building resources and strategies are having the desired impact?	How does the agency advance the practice of collaborative approaches in its areas of influence? What are the strategies for advancing these practices? For example, does grantmaking strategy provide guidelines or require grantees to collaborate with parents and parent-led organizations? How does the agency model the practices it encourages?	How does the agency itself engage parents and parent-led organizations? What opportunities exist for parents to provide feedback, contribute to planning and otherwise influence the agency's approach to collaboration? How does the agency develop or contribute to the development opportunities for parents to become leaders for internally or in parent-led or community-based organizations?

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PILLAR 4: TRANSPARENT Agencies ensure parents have access to information that allows them to fully participate and influence agency and system-level change processes.			
Commitment	**Capacity**	**Practice**	**Influence**
What structures and policies exist to engage parent leaders decision-makers and influencers in the agency? What structures and policies exist to influence partners in the field to engage parent leaders decision-makers and influencers? Does the agency's budget allocate sufficient resources to engage parents as leaders and partners in its work?	How does the agency build its own capacity to make its governance and decision making process accessible to parents? What are the resources offered to parents to build their capacity as decision-makers and influencers? How does the agency know that the capacity-building resources and strategies are having the desired impact?	What specifically does the agency do to make its governance and decision making process accessible to parents? For example, when the agency asks parents for input, is the process clearly explained in languages parents are most comfortable speaking? How does the agency inform those who gave input of the ultimate decision made? How does the agency influence others practice transparency and accessibility?	What does the agency do to involve parent leaders in the design of decision-making processes? Do parent leaders have access to information about the agency's budget and internal policies, or is parent influence limited to programs? How does the agency ensure that the projects, programs, agencies, and initiatives it supports engage parent leaders in meaningful decisions and provide accessible information?

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