



Center for the  
Study of Social Policy  
Ideas into Action

# Early Learning Community Cohorts

## The Opportunity

The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) is inviting communities to join a cohort of local leaders, each spearheading local early learning transformation efforts using the *Early Learning Community Action Guide and Assessment Tool* and building action plans.

This **six-month virtual cohort** will focus on the four building blocks of an Early Learning Community (ELC) with discussion of the contents of each building block and additional tools and resources communities might use to further early childhood work in their communities. The next ELC Cohort will launch in **November 2024**, with additional cohorts launching in 2025.

## Who Can Participate

Each cohort will be made up of 5-8 communities, which may be selected based on some shared characteristics (e.g., a cohort of rural communities launched in July 2024 - we have not decided on a focus like that yet for future cohorts). Each community will identify 1-3 people to represent them in the cohort and bring content and ideas back to a broader group of local stakeholders. This could include staff of non-profit or government entities who coordinate early childhood work for the community, child and family service providers, parent leaders, or others who are engaged in working to improve outcomes for children in the community. Cohort participants will lead their local groups in conducting a community assessment and building an ELC Action Plan during this cohort process, and then implementing that action plan going forward.

If you are a community leader interested in representing your community in an ELC cohort, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/MXJBs4FsnCM2HQHb8>. Responses received by **October 14, 2024** will be considered for the cohort launching in November. Responses received after that date (and those not selected for the November cohort) will be considered for future cohorts.

## The Support

CSSP will facilitate cohort meetings, as well as provide individualized coaching opportunities and office hours between cohort meetings. Each community participating in the cohort will submit their ELC action plan and a brief description and results of their local efforts. Communities will have the opportunity to apply for funding from the ELN Collective's Local Action Fund to implement some part of their action plan.

## About CSSP

The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) works to achieve a racially, economically, and socially just society in which all children, youth, and families thrive. We translate ideas into action, promote public policies grounded in equity, and support strong and inclusive communities. We advocate with and for all children, youth, and families marginalized by public policies and institutional practices. Learn more at [cssp.org](https://cssp.org).

## About Early Learning Nation

The ELN Collective is a dynamic national network working to ensure that all children prenatal through age 8 have equitable access to the care, education, and support they need to thrive. The ELN Collective includes seven national organization partners, who are listening to and working with local leaders, including parents, who are committed to ensuring all young children and their families can grow and thrive in their communities. Our collaboration supports local decision-making for the creation of solutions that are best for children and families in the communities where they live. Learn more at <https://eln-collective.org>.

early  
learning  
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