



Center for the  
Study of Social Policy  
Ideas into Action

# ELN Parent Advocacy & Leadership Cohorts

## The Opportunity

The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) is seeking parents, family members, and caregivers interested in building stronger childhood and family systems in their community to join an upcoming leadership development opportunity.

The ELN Parent Advocacy & Leadership Cohorts are designed to support parents in growing as community leaders and advocates through a **six-month, virtual** program. The virtual cohorts will bring together a dynamic group of parents interested in developing their leadership, community-building, and project planning skills.

Cohort participants will convene as a learning community to:

- **build** their advocacy and leadership skills
- **explore** community-building strategies
- **develop** (and get support to carry out) parent-led projects

The next cohort is set to launch in **March 2025**, and a Spanish-language cohort will follow in April 2025. If you are interested, please keep reading!

## Who Can Participate

Participation in cohorts is open to parents and caregivers caring for **young children** (from the prenatal stage through age 8). We define **parent and caregiver** as: a caring adult entrusted with caregiving and raising of a child. Parents can have a variety of relational ties to a child, that includes biological and adoptive parents, extended family (for example, grandparents, aunts/uncles), legal guardians, chosen family, and other primary caregivers.

Each cohort participant must be engaged with a nonprofit organization or government agency working on early childhood issues in their community. This includes volunteer roles.

We strongly encourage parents and caregivers of all backgrounds to apply, especially LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, members of ethnic or religious minorities, fathers, young parents, and caregivers with different relational ties to the children under their care.

## The Support

Participants will receive training and coaching from CSSP, as well as guest facilitators from other partner organizations in the Early Learning Nation Collective, to develop their skills to **organize and convene parents** at a community level, **build their leadership capacity**, and **mobilize others to advocate** for transformation of services, systems, and their communities. Each cohort will be fully virtual with monthly meetings and additional opportunities to connect as a group. This

cohort will specifically support participants in developing and implementing a parent-led project to improve the experiences of families and young children in their community.

Each parent or caregiver will receive a **\$750 stipend** after completing the 6-month cohort. Participants will have the opportunity to apply for parent-led project **mini-grants of up to \$2,500** per community to implement parent organizing and advocacy strategies in their own communities.

If you are interested in participating in the next ELN Parent Advocacy & Leadership Cohort, set to begin in March 2025, please fill out this interest form: <https://forms.gle/FHqkVRyLTXH8E8t39>

If you are interested in a Spanish-language cohort, set to launch in April 2025, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/fxaEicVbtTZQebrA8> - If you know someone who might be a good fit for the Spanish-language cohort, please share this information with them!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Esther Hernandez at [esther.hernandez@cssp.org](mailto:esther.hernandez@cssp.org)

## 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 the Early Learning Nation Collective

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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