



ELN Fathers' Leadership & Advocacy Cohort

The Opportunity

The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) is seeking fathers and father figures interested in building stronger early childhood and family systems in their community to join an upcoming leadership development opportunity.

The Early Learning Nation Fathers' Leadership & Advocacy Cohort is designed to support parents in growing as community leaders and advocates through a **5-month, virtual** program. The virtual cohort will bring together a dynamic group of fathers 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 **August 2025**. If you are interested, please keep reading!

Who Can Participate

Participation in the cohort is open to fathers and father figures caring for **young children** (from the prenatal stage through age 8). We define **father and father figure** as: a caring adult entrusted with caregiving and raising of a child who identifies as a father. Fathers can have a variety of relational ties to a child, including biological and adoptive parents, extended family (for example, grandparents, aunts/uncles), legal guardians, chosen family, and other primary caregivers.

Each cohort participant should be engaged with a nonprofit organization or government agency working on early childhood issues in their community (includes volunteer roles). This helps ensure sustainability and ongoing support for fathers.

We strongly encourage fathers of all backgrounds to apply, especially LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, members of ethnic or religious minorities, young fathers, and caregivers.

The Support

Cohort participants will receive training and coaching from CSSP, as well as guest facilitators. The cohort focuses on building participants' capacity to:

1. Organize and convene other parents
2. Lead community-driven efforts
3. Advocate for meaningful changes to early childhood systems and services—with a focus on father engagement

The 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 and outcomes of families and young children in their community.

Each father is eligible to receive a **\$750 stipend** after completing the 5-month cohort. We will meet **once a month on the first Wednesday of the month 2-3:30 PM PT / 5-5:30 PM ET**. Participants will be eligible to apply for mini-grants of up to \$2,500 to support father-led projects advancing parent organizing and advocacy efforts.

If you are interested in participating in the next ELN Fathers' Leadership & Advocacy Cohort, set to begin in August and end in December, please **fill out this interest form by June 20th**: <https://forms.gle/VGALodZWRpkGA2id8>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Arthur Argomaniz at arthur.argomaniz@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.

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>.



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