

Lead the Change



Parent Leadership in CQI: Tips from Parents & Providers

Lead the Change believes that integrating parent leadership takes place along a 5-stage continuum, and that every home visiting program begins their CQI journey at a different stage. To meet programs where they are, we identified the stages where most currently stand, then invited parent leaders and home visiting colleagues to share relevant tips.

Stage 3:

Getting Started

Our [toolkit](#) for Parent Leadership in CQI provides resources so your team can learn more about the community you serve, and build relationships with families. Utilize the:

- Parent Satisfaction Survey (15)
- Focus Group Basics (17)
- Roles & Responsibilities of a CQI Parent Leader (20)

Recruitment

By building relationships with families, you prepare your team to recruit parents. When recruiting:

- Always ask and never assume!
- Provide compensation – the [toolkit](#) offers guidelines (31), a sample reimbursement form (36), and support for budget planning (37)
- Offer opportunities to co-create your program’s policies and guidelines on Parent Leadership

Stage 4:

Engagement

It’s important to sustain engagement and develop parent leaders. Try:

- Inviting a partner or child, offering handouts (e.g., acronyms list), or encouraging them to select the first seat at the table when onboarding a parent to team meetings
- Reviewing the agenda before a meeting and allowing time for questions
- Using strength-based practices and language in your operations and interactions
- Consistently reflecting parent voice in your program

Quotes from Parents:

“Just ask, even with the other things that I had going on it was really empowering to be asked to be a part of the team.”

“I wanted to be involved because of how it made me feel to be asked. I liked being able to see my suggestions go all the way through into policy, I enjoyed seeing the loop close.”

“I felt like a valued and equal partner and that helped me to really be a part of the team and to contribute.”