

The Funders' Group Purpose

The mission of the Funders' Group on Parent Organizing, Family Engagement, and Leadership Development is to support and highlight the voice, expertise, and leadership of parents and caregivers from low-income communities and communities of color, working in partnership with all parents and caregivers, to influence programs and policies that impact families. The Funders' Group brings together local, state, regional, and national foundation professionals in a national network to engage in information sharing, joint learning, and networking activities that lead to financial, capacity building, convening, and other supports to parent leadership efforts.

Values. The values of diversity and equity are core to the Funders' Group.

- ❖ *We ensure that the voices and expertise of parent leaders and parent leadership organizations are front and center.*
- ❖ *We understand that the voices of parents from low-income communities and communities of color are underrepresented in local, state, and national debates, and strive to address this gap.*
- ❖ *We seek to bring together parents and caregivers from diverse racial, ethnic, and income groups to influence high quality, evidence-informed programs and policies that impact families.*
- ❖ *We support authentic partnerships among parent leadership organizations, funders, researchers, and other experts in the field.*
- ❖ *We seek to represent the diversity of foundations that support best practices in multi-issue parent organizing, family engagement, and leadership development.*
- ❖ *We understand that there are several pathways to supporting this work and promote peer learning and networking opportunities that will help grow the field.*

Goal. To support diverse parent and caregiver advocates as decision-makers on national, state, and local policies and practices that impact families.

Objectives for the Funders' Group

- **Engage in joint learning, strategy development, and information sharing** through an annual meeting, webinars, and other learning events.
- **Leverage funding and other resources** through aligned funding, joint funding, and pooled funding.
- **Inform foundation and foundation affinity group practice** through deep member engagement, and partnerships with non-member foundations and funder affinity groups.

Outcomes to Support the Field

- ❖ Funders will develop joint learning strategies that are informed by parent leadership efforts.
- ❖ Funders will increase aligned funding for parent organizing, family engagement, and leadership development, which respond to the needs articulated by parent leadership efforts.
- ❖ The Funders' Group will incorporate parent voice into joint learning and decision-making processes and share these practices with non-member foundations and funder affinity groups.

Funders' Group Advisory Committee: Irene Lee, Annie E. Casey Foundation (Co-Chair); Anita Black, Greater Rochester Health Foundation; Lynda Parmely, Consultant; Jenefer O'Dell, Kellogg Foundation; Allison Gray, Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health; Ada Sanchez, Peppercorn Foundation (Co-Chair); and Maisha Simmons, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.