COFI
Builds parent leadership to create family friendly communities

25 years old

Black and Brown (primarily women) in challenged communities

Trained over 4,000 parents

POWER-PAC IL
Statewide coalition of COFI-trained parents working on 4 issue campaigns:

Early Learning Campaign – 14 years (Yolanda Williams Co-Chair)

Elementary Justice Campaign

Health, Food and Recess

Stepping out of Poverty
COFI/POWER-PAC IL Early Learning Work (Pre-COVID)

0-3
Early Intervention Access
Making sure ALL families get the screenings and services they need, no matter the zip code

Parents at the Table
Family Advisory Committee

Parent to Parent Outreach/Raising Awareness
Ambassador Program
COVID-19 Begins - Conversations with COFI parents

Quotes from Parents with Young Children

- My daughter’s childcare center closed and we haven’t heard anything from them

- My husband and I can’t agree – do we pay the light bill or save the money for food?

- One mother has asthma and her children have it too, along with lead poisoning. She recently got out of the hospital.
COFI’s Fighting for our Families COVID-19 Platform
Affirmed at the April 24th, 2020 Virtual Membership Meeting

CARES ACTS (FEDERAL) – Child Care
**Stimulus for all**
**SNAP expansion**
**Worker protections (paid sick leave, paid family leave, unemployment)**
**Paycheck Protection**
**Universal Broadband**

STATE LEVEL – Childcare Provisions
**Remote Learning (particularly for children with Special Needs and Bilingual students)**
**Unemployment**
**Stimulus for Undocumented**
**Minimize Fines and Fees and Garnishments**
**Response to Utility Company Repayment proposals**
**Fair Tax and Mail-In Voting**
COFI/POWER-PAC IL Early Learning Work (COVID-19)

Parents at the Table

Remote Learning –
Calling for Return to School
Task Forces at each school
district, Quality Devices and
Internet, Supporting English
Language Learners and
Children with Special Needs

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P-20 - Family and Community
Engagement Subcommittee

Illinois State Board of Education

Early Learning Council:
Access Committee
Family Engagement Implementation
Subcommittee

Getting involved in the “All Families
Served”

Helping inform EI
Telehealth

0-3

Early Intervention Access

Parent to Parent
Outreach//Raising
Awareness

Created 2 Parent
Resource Guides

Virtual Ambassadors

Parent Friendly
Materials