



NATIONAL
PARENT
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE

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Parent Leadership For A Healthy Democracy

The National Parent Leadership Institute (NPLI) is an anti-oppression, nonpartisan organization that strengthens families' and other decision-makers' skills to advocate for children and make positive change. We use a multi-generational approach that works across difference to increase the civic engagement of families and partner with stakeholders to build a healthier and more equitable democracy for all.

We Help Dismantle Barriers to Equity

The work we do at NPLI is not just about advocacy; it's about breaking down the longstanding barriers of racism and oppression that have hindered our society's growth. We strive to eliminate these obstacles, not only through our external efforts but also within our own organization, ensuring that our practices reflect the values we hold dear. Through education, dialogue, and action, we create a world where equity is not just an ideal, but a reality.



Innovators and Trailblazers

We are at the forefront of innovation in parent and family leadership. Our work has inspired countless other organizations. Ever hear about the authentic engagement of families as leaders? Yeah, we practically wrote the manual on it.

Creators of Belonging

We advocate for policies, programs, and practices that promote equity, justice, and inclusion for families of all backgrounds and identities. Our work helps break down the barriers of racism and discrimination in our communities.

Guardians of Democracy

Through an unbiased, nonpartisan approach to the civic engagement of families we build a healthier, more inclusive, and more equitable democracy where all families have a voice and a stake in the future of our society.



Through Our Work We...

Train Families and Other Decision-makers

We are committed to supporting and training parents and family members, transforming them into effective leaders and advocates. Our programs are designed to equip them with the tools and confidence needed to make a difference in their children's lives and the broader community.

We have built a model to support and train policy makers and organizations to authentically engage with families. By doing so, we help create policies that are not only inclusive but also reflective of the real needs and aspirations of families.

Facilitate Collaboration

We actively facilitate cross-sector collaboration, bringing together diverse stakeholders to engage in collective action. Our initiatives aim to create collaboration that goes beyond traditional boundaries, fostering partnerships that drive positive change.

Provide Research

Our dedication to enhancing family leadership initiatives is backed by rigorous research, evaluation, and technical assistance. We strive to provide data-driven insights that inform and improve the quality and impact of our programs.

Family Leadership Initiatives

The Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

Building parent power for community change!

Founded in Connecticut more than 30 years ago, The Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI), is a transformative national family civics initiative proven to equip parents and caregivers with the tools to become effective advocates for children and agents of positive change in their communities. It has been implemented successfully in 80+ communities across the U.S. and one city in Australia.

Through a comprehensive curriculum, PLTI learners engage in sessions that cover a wide range of topics, including group dynamics, problem-solving, and understanding laws and budgets. The training fosters personal growth and results in community projects that address neighborhood, school, or family needs. Through PLTI, parents increase their voice and power at community tables, becoming problem solvers, advocates, and leaders.



It was the point and pinnacle of my change... PLTI prepared me in a way that not even my academic career did.

Joshua Vaughn
Naugatuck, Connecticut



PLTI is a family civics initiative of the Connecticut General Assembly's Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity.

The Children's Leadership Training Institute (CLTI)

Building youth power to make change!

We recognize that leadership is multi-generational. In our work, communities offer leadership training to parents, caregivers, and grandparent, *and* children and youth.

CLTI is a parallel initiative for children and youth of parents training in PLTI. The curriculum braids child development, leadership, and democracy skills together. CLTI uses literacy as a base and creates a full spectrum of activities that mirrors the PLTI course and encompass multiple intelligences.

Together, PLTI and CLTI form a full family civics approach that supports the well-being and learning of children and youth.



My activism at school started with CLTI. I wouldn't even be able to begin to think of how I could address these issues without it.

Julian Pena
Mill Creek, Washington



Expanding System Capacity

Building organizational ability to make lasting change!

NPLI has developed and implemented a model of practices to train and build capacity of partners to engage parents and community at decision making tables to co-create improved policies, systems, and practices that benefit families and communities.

We embody and advance the value of ***nothing about us without us***. We have witnessed the transformative impact on community change when those closest to the problem are actively involved in co-designing the solutions. Our approach includes engaging PLTI and CLTI alumni in authentic partnership opportunities whenever possible, leveraging their skills and experiences for maximum impact.

Over the last six years, we have partnered with elected leaders, foundations, community-based non-profits, and public agencies to bring family leaders and other community members together to identify problems.

Results of this work include:

- A new national leadership initiative supporting family childcare providers, which has graduated 60+ fellows from across the country.
- A parent-created policy agenda for increasing access to housing that is supporting parents' state and national advocacy efforts.
- Engagement and transformative work with 13 health and human service agencies to advance racial equity, integrate parent voice, and improve social emotional health in Rochester, NY.

This work—where parents are involved and invested in every step—**accelerates and sustains** positive community change.



Alumni Support Beyond PLTI & CLTI

More than a training; a transformative initiative!

Our support and engagement of alumni extends far beyond the initial 20-week civics and leadership trainings. By fostering a supportive and extensive nationwide alum network and providing continuous education opportunities after graduation, NPLI enables graduates to effectively engage in civic discourse and influence policy-making after graduation. By ensuring alumni remain informed and equipped with the latest skills and knowledge, they are also more prepared to contribute to our system capacity efforts when opportunities arise, enriching our initiatives with their participation and advocacy.

Advocacy Trips

Family leaders have the opportunity to participate in advocacy trips, where they can visit state capitals, Washington D.C., and other significant locations to meet with policymakers and advocate for issues that matter to their families and communities. These trips provide a platform for PLTI graduates to voice their concerns, share their experiences, and influence legislation directly.

Continuous Education

NPLI hosts ongoing continuous education and training workshops to support family leaders continuing to develop their leadership skills, ability to advocate, and build their knowledge of current policy issues.

Through our Parent Policy Tables alumni discuss topics with elected officials to better understand policy decisions affecting their communities. Similarly, in our Racial Equity Conversations graduates learn about different racial equity topics that better help them address and promoting racial equity within their communities.



Proven Results for Families & Communities

NPLI engages the Policy, Research, and Evaluation (PRE) Team at the Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools at NYU (NYU Metro Center) to conduct annual evaluations of its work.



These evaluations—over a decade's worth—show that through its implementation of the Parent Leadership Training Institute, NPLI increases the civic knowledge, skills, and actions of parents.

Meaningful change occurs and equity increases for children and families when communities work effectively across difference with parents as partners in decision making. Participation at public meetings increase, and parents go on to hold seats on boards, commissions, and in elected office. Furthermore, there are ripple effects in family life as well as in the community that invigorate democracy. After PLTI, parents are more likely to vote, meet with an elected official, and work with their neighbors to solve a problem. Parents make positive changes in their lives such as going back to school, changing careers, and creating healthier homes.

We are grateful for our partners who engage with us in this work to make community change.

Our partners include:

- » Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- » American Public Human Services Association (APHSA)
- » Bezos Family Foundation

- » Children's Defense Fund (CDF)
- » Greater Rochester Health Foundation (GRHF)
- » Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)
- » Kresge Foundation
- » Melville Charitable Trust
- » National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- » NYU Metro Center
- » State of Colorado

- » State of Rhode Island
- » The Connecticut General Assembly's Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity
- » The State of Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Department of Transitional Assistance
- » United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN)
- » White Earth Nation
- » Wind River Indian Reservation

Our PLTI Impact by the Numbers

1
International PLTI Community

3
Indigenous PLTI Communities

18
U.S. States with a PLTI community

80+
Total number of PLTI Communities

17k+
Total number of PLTI Graduates

United for Change

The NPLI team is a group of seasoned professionals, passionate advocates, and dedicated parents. But, NPLI isn't just a team; we are a small collective of dreamers from across the nation. Each of us brings our own experiences and aspirations for change. Together, we dream of a world where every child thrives, and every family has a voice. We are united by our shared vision of breaking down barriers and building bridges, turning our dreams into tangible outcomes for the communities we serve.

We invite you to join us in this mission, to partner with us in creating lasting change, and making a real difference in the lives of families and communities.

Learn more about NPLI and our work at ParentsWhoLead.org.

