

Memo

To: Commissioner Mark McQuillan, Co-Chair
Dr. Janice Gruendel, Co-Chair
Early Childhood Education Cabinet

From: Karen Foley-Schain, Executive Director
Children's Trust Fund

Re: Funding request for parent leadership training

Date: May 9, 2008

I want to thank the Early Childhood Education Cabinet for its interest and funding support for the parent leadership training and development program. This is an important program that trains parents to become skilled advocates and strong voices for children.

The Children's Trust Fund issued a request for proposals (rfp) to community providers to offer this training beginning July 1, 2008. We have received an enthusiastic response from the community.

We received requests for \$600,000 in funding - \$70,000 more than the \$530,000 we have available. We have reviewed all of the proposals. Each one has met the requirements of the rfp and the qualifications to receive funding.

The Children's Trust Fund would like to support all of the proposals. To do that we are requesting that the Cabinet increase its funding for this program by \$35,000. The William Casper Memorial Fund has offered to match these funds. Together these funds would provide the \$70,000 needed to close the gap.

I have attached an overview highlighting the goals and outcomes of parent leadership training.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I can be reached at 860-418-8761 or Karen.Foley-Schain@ct.gov

CC: Davie Nee
Nancy Leonard

Parent Leadership Training and Development

Goal:

More parents have a strong voice on behalf of children and play a key role in policy development in Connecticut

Mission:

Offer training to parents to enhance their advocacy and leadership skills

Outcomes:

Research conducted by the University of New Hampshire found that:

- Parent leaders create positive change in the systems that serve and support children and families.
- Parents become more confident and assertive, and take on more leadership roles as a result of the training.
- Children benefit by observing their parents in action as advocates and decision makers.

Ninety-six percent of parents who participated in the study reported high rate of satisfaction with the course.

Parent leadership courses:

The parents leadership training programs funds several different courses including:

- The Parent Leadership Training Institute
- Parents Supporting Educational Excellence
- People Empowering People
- Voices for Families
- ASPIRA
- Leadership for Adolescent Parents