



**Parent
Organization
Network**

Breaking Through Barriers

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO PON MEMBERS & SERVICES





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Introduction

The Parent Organization Network (PON) is composed of 14 active member organizations and about 50 individual parent or community leaders. We work primarily in five school districts (i.e., Los Angeles Unified School District, Long Beach Unified School District, Lynwood Unified School District, Pomona Unified School District, and Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District) but have established a broader reach and influence within Los Angeles County and state-level education agencies.

PON, created this directory to offer parents key resources and information at their fingertips. Our nonprofit partners are easily accessible via this Parent’s Guide to Services.

Areas of expertise include:

- Supporting parents with children in early education, in elementary school, or in middle & high school.
- Parent Development: Supporting parents to continue learning and growing as persons, parents, professionals, or leaders. PON members do this by hosting parent support groups; developing parents’ literacy, leadership, helping them become U.S. citizens; or connecting parents to community engagement campaigns or projects.
- Extracurricular: Providing extracurricular programs for youth.

PON encourages families to review the list and find services in their area.



AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENT/ COMMUNITY COALITION FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY (AAP/ CCEE)

About Us

African American Parent/ Community Coalition for Educational Equity (AAP/ CCEE) empowers African American parents and communities in the pursuit of educational equity. AAP/ CCEE advocates for fairness, inclusion, and excellence in education.

Area of Expertise

Parent Workshops to Support Student Success in Middle and High School

Summary of Services

African American Parent/ Community Coalition for Educational Equity (AAP/ CCEE) facilitates transformative capacity-building for parents and guardians who wish to become effective advocates for Black Excellence. The aim is to help students thrive in academic settings, and show socio-emotional and cultural development that will help them succeed in school, college, and beyond. The AAP/ CCEE model cultivates networking and leadership skills aimed at supporting educational equity and closing opportunity and achievement gaps, while promoting cross-cultural collaboration.

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Website Coming Soon

Visit AAP/CCEE on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/aapccee



ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (AJSOCAL)

About Us

Established in 1983 by President Emeritus Stewart Kwoh in response to hate crimes, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL) provides Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities with multi-lingual, culturally sensitive legal services, education, and civil rights support. A citizenship assistance program and Asian Language Legal Intake Project (ALLIP) in partnership with local legal aid organizations in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, offers legal assistance hotlines for non-English speaking communities in Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Thai, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Spanish.

In 2010, AJSOCAL joined civil rights affiliates – Asian American Institute (AAI), Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) and Asian Law Caucus (ALC) – to form the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, also known as Asian Americans Advancing Justice, with offices in Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

Area of Expertise

Parent Development: Citizenship

Summary of Services

AJSOCAL hosts free citizenship application workshops in collaboration with community organizations. During workshops, staff and volunteers assist with verification and eligibility toward citizenship, complete and file citizenship applications, and prepare fee waiver requests if participants cannot afford a filing fee. Naturalization workshops are held every Tuesday and Thursday at the Orange County office, and every Friday of the month at the Los Angeles office at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

1145 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90017
2401 East Katella Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92806
(213) 977-7500

Legal Help Hotline:

ENGLISH: 888.349.9695

www.ajsocal.org

www.facebook.com/AdvancingJusticeSoCal

Chinese): 800.520.2356

(Korean): 800.867.3640

(Khmer): 800.867.3126

(Filipino): 855.300.2552

(Hindi): 855.971.2552

(Thai): 800.914.9583

(Vietnamese): 714.477.2958



COMMUNITY ASSET DEVELOPMENT RE-DEFINING EDUCATION (CADRE)

About Us

Founded in 2001, Community Asset Development Redefining Education (CADRE) is an independent, community-based, organizing, and social justice-driven parent membership organization in South Los Angeles. In partnership with staff and key stakeholders, CADRE is led by Black and Brown parents and caregivers whose children attend local schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

Our mission is to solidify and advance parent leadership to ensure that all children are rightfully educated regardless of where they live.

We march towards a vision of schools that facilitate solidarity and agency of families, with radical compassion and inclusion of our most marginalized parents as solution drivers and changemakers. We envision schools that respect and cultivate the humanity, self-determination, and resilience of Black and Latino families. While our impact is multi-dimensional, our north star and the ultimate path to achieving our vision is a South LA community with a dismantled school-to-prison pipeline.

Area of Expertise

Parent Development: Leadership, Organizing, and Advocacy

Summary of Services

CADRE's model and our organizational culture originate from a long-learned and strategically evolving set of beliefs, values, and principles about redefining parent power, their worth, and potential, as well as their capacity to heal, learn, and transform. Our programming includes parent empowerment, organizing, coalition building, and leadership development, as well as building a movement and broader ecosystem for transformative work that decriminalizes our schools and communities.

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CENTRAL AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER OF LOS ANGELES (CARECEN-LA)

About Us

Established in 1983, the Central American Resource Center of Los Angeles (CARECEN-LA) is the largest Central American immigrants rights organization in the U.S. working to change its immigration system and win legal status for immigrants. CARECEN-LA champions human and civil rights regarding issues such as education reform, worker and immigrants' rights, economic justice and more.

Area of Expertise

1. Youth Extracurricular Programs
2. Parent Development: Leadership and Organizing

Summary of Services

CARECEN-LA offers immigrant integration services to youth and parents including:

1. Youth Programs:

- A. College Head Start** is offered to high school seniors after school hours. Students receive assistance with college and financial aid applications, and college transition.
- B. East Los Angeles College Central American Studies Courses** are offered for secondary students at CARECEN. Saturday classes are UC/CSU transferable. Youth learn about Central American culture, and receive high school and college credit.
- C. Youth Organizing Program** is a three-month training offering youth opportunities to exercise leadership skills and participate in civic engagement.
- D. LGBTQ+ Workshops** highlight the connection between LGBTQ+ and migrant issues, and are facilitated in schools and community spaces.

2. Parent Development:

- A. Parent Council** curricula and workshops give parents a deeper understanding of public education, while encouraging them to organize around related issues. Parents participate in school committees, district and state advocacy efforts, and more.
- B. English Classes**, beginner's level, are held Saturdays and free to the public.
- C. Citizenship Classes** offering students a foundation for the 100 civics questions in the citizenship class are offered over a period of 13 weeks. Students learn to read, identify and write required vocabulary and dictation for the interview.

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Concilio de Padres de Highland Park

EL CONCILIO DE PADRES DE HIGHLAND PARK

About Us

El Concilio de Padres de Highland Park is a parent volunteer group that offers peer support about how to navigate the U.S. public education system, and access resources to support students.

Area of Expertise

Parent Development

Summary of Services

El Concilio de Padres de Highland Park partners with the L.A. County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH), the largest department of its kind in the country, to provide critical support and information to families. The community-based organization also partners with Decoding Dyslexia CA (DDCA), a grassroots organization that raises dyslexia awareness and offers resources for families.

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GENTE ORGANIZADA (GENTE)

About Us

Gente Organizada (Gente) is a community-led social action non-profit in Pomona, California. Gente builds intergenerational empowerment and wellness among youth and immigrant families.

Area of Expertise

1. Youth Extracurricular Programs: Leadership Development
2. Parent Development: Leadership and Organizing

Summary of Services

1. Gente empowers Pomona's high school and college youth to organize for a healthy environment that cultivates leadership. Gente works to improve mental health, dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, increase government funding, and create youth-led media platforms.

Gente creates wellness and connection among Pomona's Queer and Trans youth by fostering spaces for joy, exploration, and community. Areas of interest include: gender justice, cultivating spaces of care and collectivity, and building intergenerational wellness for families.

2. Gente organizes advocates to ensure families achieve educational justice and that a school district and city make decisions that place children first by improving community health and wellness, creating economic justice in school funding through participatory budgeting, ensuring the success of English Learners, and expanding parent voting rights.

Its parent development and support programs include: La Red, a Gente free food and basic needs program; Testimonios y Sabiduría, an elder-led social action group; Gente Community Garden; and Peer-to-Peer Support Group.

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LATINOS IN ACTION CALIFORNIA

About Us

Latinos In Action California is nonprofit organization based in Long Beach, California, focused on Latino professional and personal development, community enrichment and development, and advocacy through action. It works toward creating an equitable and just society for marginalized communities across California.

Area of Expertise

Parent Development: Support Groups, Leadership, Advocacy and Civic Engagement

Extracurricular: Youth Leadership Program

Summary of Services

Through a series of programs, Latinos In Action California offers numerous opportunities for historically disenfranchised communities to civically engage and participate. Its Professional and Personal Development program offers a 3–6-month Long Beach Leadership Program, while its Community Enrichment and Development Program provides a monthly Youth Leadership Initiative. An Advocacy Through Action program creates opportunities for low-resource communities to participate in city council events, town halls, and more. In addition, an annual Women’s Conference brings further opportunities for women in the Long Beach area.

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LOS ANGELES EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (LAEP)

About Us

Los Angeles Education Partnership (LAEP) is a nonprofit organization that advances educational equity. In partnership with families, schools, and the community, LAEP facilitates access to and opportunities for quality education.

Area of Expertise

1. Supporting Parents with Children in Early Education
2. Parent Development: Community Engagement

Summary of Services

LAEP believes that education begins at birth, and that parents are their children's first teachers. This is why LAEP's Early Childhood & Family Engagement programs build school readiness in children ages 0 to 5, their families and schools, while leading community initiatives that improve early childhood systems and access to resources.

1. The LAEP Early Head Start (EHS) strengthens parental skills, starting with prenatal development, and empowers parents to be early childhood and educational advocates. Services include home visits, social and health services, prenatal education and support, educational playgroups and activities, and assistance for families with children who have special needs.

LAEP's holistic approach eliminates barriers to success and aids parents in becoming their child's first teachers and leaders in their communities. We partner with elementary schools to involve parents early in the schools their children will attend. All EHS services are provided at no cost to qualifying families in the following zip codes: Hawthorne 90250, Inglewood 90301, 90302, 90303, and 90305, and South L.A. 90001. Families can enroll any time before a child turns three.

2. Children thrive and families flourish in strong, safe, healthy, and engaged communities where people develop strong and lasting relationships, support each other, and act together to give children the best start possible. LAEP has a deep history of community engagement in early childhood spaces. LAEP's work empowers the community to address important issues for local families to support kindergarten readiness.

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LOS ANGELES URBAN LEAGUE (LAUL)

About Us

Los Angeles Urban League (LAUL) is a civil rights organization that has advocated for racial equality since 1921. Through focused social programs and advocacy efforts aimed at addressing critical issues affecting L.A.-area underserved communities, LAUL educates and empowers African Americans and other minorities about economic self-reliance and civil rights.

Area of Expertise

Extracurricular programs for youth

Summary of Services

LAUL offers educational and job training opportunities, as well as workforce development and support for entrepreneurs. In addition, LAUL provides resources that help underserved communities access health resources in order to improve their quality of life.

In addition, LAUL has numerous opportunities for youth through its education programs that include:

- Biz Camp, a free four-week summer camp for young entrepreneurs ages 13-17
- Urban Bridge Builders amp, a STEAM-focused career builder for youth ages 13-17
- Project Ready, a STEM mentorship and leader development program for high school students
- LA Black High School Graduation, a hybrid interactive graduation event celebrating Black excellence

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<https://laul.org/>

www.facebook.com/laurbanleague

X at <https://www.facebook.com/laurbanleague>

[instagram.com/laurbanleague_](https://www.instagram.com/laurbanleague_/)



LYNWOOD SAVE OUR STUDENTS

About Us

Lynwood Save Our Schools is a group of committed parent volunteers that provides peer support toward navigating the U.S. public education system, with a focus on special education.

Area of Expertise

Parent Development

Summary of Services

Lynwood Save Our Schools offers families a space to share training and resources that support students. The group's network includes partnerships with the Lynwood Unified School District, City Council for the City of Lynwood, Rotary Club of Lynwood, and other civic groups.

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MALDEF

About Us

Established in 1968, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) is the nation's leading Latino legal civil rights organization. MALDEF protects and defends the rights of Latinos living in the United States, as well as the constitutional rights of all Americans.

Area of Expertise

Parent Development: Parent Leadership Development and Organizing

Summary of Services

MALDEF offers families a 12-session Parent School Partnership Program that helps them overcome language and cultural barriers, deepen their understanding of their rights and their children's rights, and learn about their responsibilities within the U.S. public education system. Program participants develop group projects that range in topics from curriculum enhancements to community advocacy. The projects help ensure children receive a just and equitable public education that readies them for college and career.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENTS & YOUTH

About Us

The National Association of African American Parents & Youth (NAAAPY) offers Black communities supports needed to effectively navigate diverse educational options, ensuring their children receive a quality education and achieve academic success.

Area of Expertise

Parent Development: Programs for youth coming soon

Summary of Services

NAAAPY offers parents a variety of programs that encourage participation and build capacity.

- Member Saturday Meetings – During these weekly meetings held from 3-4 p.m., NAAAPY members work on projects and address pressing issues that impact the education of Black students.
- Black Parent University – The program offers parenting classes that aim to change parenting modalities, set boundaries within the parent-child relationship, increase accessibility to mental health resources, and build communities that support children.
- Advocacy – Members advocate for the presence and engagement of Black fathers, and support for Black mothers and their children. Members address issues like implicit bias in public institutions, review critical data around education, health and work outcomes, and raise awareness through social media. Advocacy efforts also ensure that the voices of parents are heard in critical spaces that impact the education of their children. Focus projects include the following efforts:
 - Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)
 - Monitor implementation of the LAUSD Black Student Achievement Plan (BSAP)
 - California State Steering Committee overseeing an \$85 million dollar investment in teacher professional development
 - California State University Northridge (CSUN) Ethnic Studies Program

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OUR VOICE: COMMUNITIES FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

About Us

Our Voice: Communities for Quality Education (Our Voice) is a nonprofit organization that uses 21st Century technologies to empower Latino and Indigenous immigrant families so that they can actively participate in the betterment of public education in Los Angeles. Our Voice offers an online space that is culturally and linguistically sensitive, safe, and trusted, to educate, inform, engage, and empower.

Area of Expertise

Parent Development: Leadership and Organizing

Summary of Services

Our Voice is a bilingual (English and Spanish) communications initiative that leverages Latino and Indigenous immigrant cultural traditions of family bonds as well as the existing popular use of Facebook as a communal space to create an online corps of parents and students admitted to the betterment of public education in Los Angeles. Programs and initiatives include:

- Facebook Online Community – The Our Voice Facebook group provides a space for open discussions, constructive dialogue, and resource sharing about education-related issues. Members are invited to post, participate, engage, create dialogue, and share information about pre-K-12, college and university. Our Voice offers informative articles, free resources, and potential solutions to the public education challenges families face.
- Our Voice “Learning Together Series” or Aprendiendo Juntos – The program consists of online conversations with experts and members of the community that address issues important to the wellbeing of families. These are hosted with other partner nonprofits.
- Student Leaders, Learning and Mentoring – Our Voice invests in career development through internships and fellowships for college students majoring in a variety of fields. Focused on resource sharing, advocacy, and social media innovation, interns and actively manage Facebook and Instagram pages, create unique content, and more.

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www.ovfe.org
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PADRES PIONEROS

About Us

Parent Pioneers – Padres Pioneros is a grassroots group of Mexican American and Central American immigrant mothers and grandmothers with over 28 years of experience working with parents, children, college students, and community members to promote environmental and social justice and academic excellence and college going.

Area of Expertise

1. Supporting Parents with Children in Elementary School
2. Youth Extracurricular Programs

Summary of Services

1. Padres Pioneros partners with the CSU Northridge Chicana/o Studies Department to provide the afterschool weekly Good Heart Chicana/o and Native Science Project program to 2nd-5th grade students and their families. The Good Heart program consists of eight 90 minute classes held on Tuesday's from 1:30-3:00 PM. The project uses culturally relevant bilingual children's literature, teatro, Creative Dialogue, and hands-on E-STEAM activities to engage families in fun and learning about the environment.
2. Student and Community Leadership Institute for Climate Resilience (SLICR) launched virtually in 2020, trainings were first offered in-person in Fall 2023, and is composed of 20 hours of intensive and interactive climate leadership training for Spanish-speaking community members. SLICR participants have joined from across the U.S. including Texas, Washington, and Oregon, and internationally from Mexico. SLICR participants design and develop an environmental project as part of their training.

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www.facebook.com/ParentPioneers/



PARENT ORGANIZATION NETWORK

About Us

Parent Organization Network (PON) envisions parents as equal partners in closing opportunity and achievement gaps in public education. By empowering parent collaboration with educators, and promoting equity and excellence for students, PON ensures all students receive a high quality, inclusive education tailored to their needs.

Area of Expertise

1. Supporting Parents with Children in Elementary School
2. Parent Development: Leadership & Advocacy

Summary of Services

PON's programs reflect the organization's enduring efforts to build, strengthen and increase parent engagement and empowerment.

1. Support for parents with children in elementary school. Initiatives include:
 - Monitoring Learning Campaign
 - For English Learner Success Program (4ELS) is a parent program that builds capacity and empowers parents of ELs so that they actively engage in their student's education
 - CAFÉ con PON is an online English Learner community that offers parents up-to-date information for English Learners in Spanish about how to navigate online portals, and the different ways that they can support their children's socioemotional development while monitoring the academic learning progress.
2. Parent Development includes Cross-Cultural Solidarity Project, and Advocacy efforts.
 - Cross-Cultural Solidarity Project builds individual parent awareness and understanding about the Ethnic Studies graduation requirement. This is part of PON's efforts to build parent capacity, agency, and advocacy.
 - PON's advocacy work leads parents in a self-discovery process whereby they help co-design campaigns and advocate for change in schools.

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PLAZA COMUNITARIA/CASA UNIVERSITARIA, LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH

About Us

CASA Universitaria is an online high school and college program designed to offer a variety of educational services to underserved communities. The program is a collaboration between the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the University of Guadalajara's Virtual System (UDGVirtual). CASA Universitaria serves as a satellite UDG campus offering high school, college and graduate-level courses in Spanish.

Area of Expertise

Parent Development: Adult Literacy

Summary of Services

CASA Universitaria offers residents living in low-income communities opportunities to expand their knowledge base through adult education, Spanish-language literacy classes and much more.

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www.udgvirtual.udg.mx/casa-universitaria



PRO-EDU

About Us

Pro-Edu (Power, Responsibility, Organization) is a community-based organization offering parent capacity-building through school districts.

Area of Expertise

1. Early Education, Elementary, Middle & High School: Supporting Parents with Children in TK-12
2. Parent Development

Summary of Services

1. Pro-Edu offers parenting classes about topics related to early learning, socioemotional development, growth mindset, learning at home, and college access.
2. Pro-Edu provides workshop series that support parents' mental health; parenting and family wellness; leadership and advocacy in the TK-12 public education system; and using computers and technology.

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WATTS CENTURY LATINO ORGANIZATION (WCLO)

About Us

Watts Century Latino Organization (WCLO) is a community-based organization established in 1990 to serve residents in Watts and the greater Watts community, including four public housing developments: Jordan Downs, Imperial Courts, Nickerson Gardens, and Gonzaque Village. In collaboration with public and private sector agencies, WCLO programs promote civic action and engagement, community economic and human development, education improvement, community safety, and cultural awareness, equity and unity. Overall, WCLO is committed to the development of healthy neighborhoods and self-sufficient families.

Area of Expertise

Parent Development: Leadership, Advocacy & Community Engagement

Summary of Services

WCLO trains and organizes members, and serves as a community hub offering a variety of resources that increase safety, support parents with children ages 0-5, and address housing-related issues. In addition, WCLO shares resources with parents related to food security, housing, hosts a community garden, and leads community outreach and engagement efforts to include parent voice in local decisions.

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OUR FUNDERS



CHAMPIONS OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

www.parentnetwork-la.org

