Empowering Parenting Students Through a Community of Practice Initiative

MAY 15, 2024
Today’s Agenda

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Who Are Parenting Students in California?
3. The Community of Practice
4. Audience Q&A
5. Close
EdTrust-West
TEAM LEADING THE ALLIANCE’S COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Carol Hedgspeth, PhD
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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EDUCATOR ENGAGEMENT ASSOCIATE

Maya Valree
ALLIANCE LEAD AND POLICY ANALYST, PARENTING STUDENTS
The California Alliance for Student Parent Success, co-led by EdTrust-West and California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy, brings together diverse stakeholders from research, philanthropy, advocacy, education, policy, business, and more, with the shared goal of championing postsecondary success and well-being of over 400,000+ student parents enrolled in California’s institutions.
Our Vision & Mission

VISION
We envision a California where higher education systems equitably support and empower student parents on their paths to earning meaningful credentials and securing gainful employment.

MISSION
Through research, policy advocacy, capacity building, and community engagement, The California Alliance for Student Parent Success supports the postsecondary success and comprehensive well-being of California student parents and their families.
California Alliance for Student Parent Success Goals

THE ALLIANCE’S GOALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1</td>
<td>Solidify The Alliance as the key source of information for students, practitioners, and policymakers, and increase degree attainment rates for parenting students and single mothers.</td>
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<td>Goal 2</td>
<td>Shift policies, practices, resources, relationships, decisions, and beliefs in favor of parenting students and single mother students, ultimately increasing postsecondary attainment.</td>
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What We Do
DISCOVER THE ALLIANCE WORK

Policy Advocacy
Capacity Building
Research & Analysis
Community Engagement
Who Are California Student Parents

300,000 Undergraduates are student parents

12% of the student population

The ALLIANCE
Who Are California Student Parents

More likely to be students of color

72%

of student parents are Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, or Native American

- 47% Latinx
- 29% White
- 11% Asian
- 9% Black
- 3% Two or more races
Who Are California Student Parents

More likely to be female

15% of female students have children

8% of male students have children
Who Are California Student Parents
More likely to be older

34
Median age of student parents

21
Median age of nonparenting students
Who Are California Student Parents
More likely to be first generation students

61% of student parents are the first in their family to go to college

50% of nonparenting students are the first in their family to go to college
Who Are California Student Parents

More likely to live in rural and inland regions

The ALLIANCE
## Goals of the Community of Practice

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Goal 1</strong></th>
<th>By the end of the Community Practice (CoP), participating colleges will <strong>conduct or refine data collection</strong> on parenting students.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 2</strong></td>
<td>By the end of the CoP, participating colleges will identify <strong>at least two policies or practices</strong> to implement that better serve parentings students.</td>
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Why Apply?

**BENEFITS**

- Access to technical assistance, including research and implementation guidance.
- Time to learn from peers about the experiences of student parents and shared problems of practice.
- In-kind technical assistance valued at $75,000.
- Travel reimbursement for the in-person session on September 23, 2024.
What is The Alliance’s Community of Practice?

The Alliance’s Community of Practice is a process to learn alongside others engaged in identifying inequities and developing action plans rooted in research-based practices that eliminate barriers to parenting student success and well-being.
Overview

First in-person session in Oakland, California

**September 23, 2024**

Five virtual sessions from **October 2024 to February 2025**

Colleges will be equipped and prepared to implement an action plan starting **March 2025**
Applications are now open!

PRIORITY APPLICATION DUE: JUNE 1st, 2024 AT 5:00 PM PACIFIC TIME

Important Documents

Request for Application (RFA)  Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)  Letter of Support (LOS)

Request for Applications for The Alliance’s Empowering Single Mothers & Parenting Students Community of Practice

Background
The California Alliance for Student Parent Success (The Alliance) is a collaboration between California’s West and California’s Center: Higher Education for a Strong Economy. California Competes, together, these organizations have formed The Alliance, guided by the following mission and vision:

Mission: Through research, policy advocacy, capacity building, and community engagement, The California Alliance for Student Parent Success supports the postsecondary success and comprehensive well-being of California student parents and their families.

Vision: The California Alliance for Student Parent Success envisions a California where higher education systems equitably support and empower student parents on their paths to earning meaningful credentials and securing gainful employment. The Alliance commits to driving systemic change and advocates for investing in resources and services that enable student parents and their families forward. We work to ensure that student parents and their families are recognized and supported, effectively bridging equity gaps and strengthening systems to achieve equity for current and future generations to truly thrive.

Empowering Single Mothers & Parenting Students Community of Practice

Frequently Asked Questions

Applications Due: June 1, 2024

Letter of Support Template
The California Alliance for Student Parent Success
590 2nd St.
Oakland, California 94607

Dear California Alliance for Student Parent Success Team,
I am writing to express my full support for [insert institution]’s participation in The Alliance’s Community of Practice Initiative. The Community of Practice’s goals of conducting and refining data collection to better serve student parents hold tremendous promise for [insert institution] and the entire California Community College system. Moreover, the commitment to identifying policy and practice changes to implement is a significant step towards addressing barriers that hinder parenting student academic success and well-being.

I commend our team’s efforts to identify targeted policies and practices and utilize data to develop tailored support mechanisms for parenting students across multiple departments (i.e. Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Financial Aid, Institutional Research, etc.). At its core, education is a transformative force, and it is our duty to ensure that parenting students within and beyond [insert institution] are academically successful. I am particularly excited about the prospect of sharing our experiences and findings with another California Community College campus because the lessons we learn together will serve as a beacon of best practices, guiding others in their efforts to better understand how to best support parenting students. This collaborative approach has the potential to create a ripple effect of positive change across the educational landscape.

In conclusion, I am confident that our participation in The Alliance’s Community of Practice will not only benefit our current and future parenting students but also inspire change on a much broader scale. I want to reiterate my full support and my commitment to sharing our institution’s resources to ensure the success of this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Eligibility

- A California Community College.
- Have the support of the campus president or the support of at least 3 distinct programs on campus.*
- Have six members willing to serve on the institutional team from September 2024-February 2025.
- Be willing to develop and execute an action plan, which will include at least 2 policies and practices.
- Be willing to conduct or refine campus data collection related to single mothers and parenting students.
Application Preview

Questions

- What resources or initiatives are available to support parenting students at your institution, if any?

- How will participating in the Single Mothers & Parenting Students Community of Practice strengthen existing supports or facilitate new initiatives for your institution's parenting students?

- Do you know how many parenting students are enrolled on your campus?

- What are your desired outcomes for participating in the Single Mothers & Parenting Students Community of Practice?
Applications must include:

- A Letter of Support signed by the campus president is required if a member of campus leadership (e.g., Dean of Students) does not complete the application.

- A Letter of Support signed by the leaders of three relevant campus programs (e.g., women’s resource center, campus child care center, Extended Opportunities and Programs) is required if a member of campus leadership completes the application.
Questions?
Contact Information
studentparentsuccess@californiagovernment.org

THANK YOU!

Next Steps
- Review the Request for Application (RFA)
- Identify point person
- Complete application

Important Dates
- Priority application deadline: June 1, 2024 AT 5:00 PM Pacific

Will Send
- Follow-up email
- Presentation slides
- Webinar recording
I thrive in the space of imagining what comes next. We reframe problems into opportunities to overcome challenges and achieve success. I believe higher education is the key to California’s future and we must work hard to make it more accessible.

Thank You

Contact: studentparentssuccess@californiacompetes.org