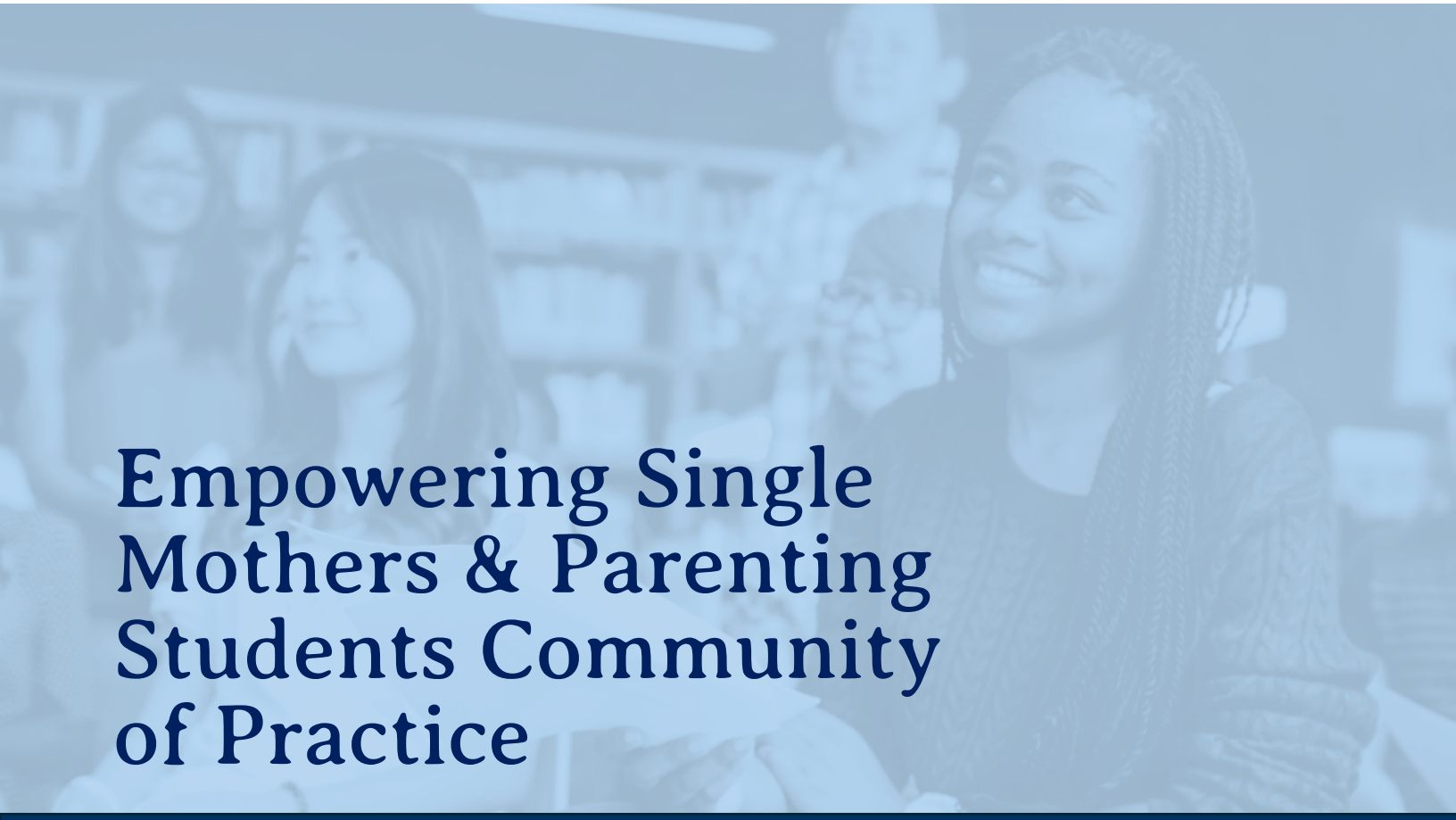
The CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE for STUDENT PARENT SUCCESS



Empowering Single Mothers & Parenting Students Community of Practice

Frequently Asked Questions

Priority Application Deadline: July 18th, 2025

Final Application Deadline: August 1st, 2025

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What is The California Alliance for Student Parent Success?

The California Alliance for Student Parent Success (The Alliance) is a collaboration between EdTrust-West and California Competes. Together, these two organizations have formed The Alliance to support the success and well-being of California's 400,000 student parents.

What is The Alliance's Community of Practice?

The Alliance's Community of Practice (CoP) is a a technical assistance effort from September 2025 to February 2026 to support four colleges in strengthening campus resources and services for single mothers and parenting students. Participants will engage in a facilitated process to learn alongside others engaged in identifying inequities and developing action plans rooted in research-based practices that eliminate barriers that hinder single mothers and parenting student success and well-being.

Why should my college participate in a CoP?

Participating colleges will gain access to unique peer learning opportunities and support in making their campus more inclusive and family-friendly.

How many colleges will be selected for the CoP?

All public colleges and universities in California are eligible to apply. Six colleges will be selected based on their commitment, demonstrated need, and engagement capacity.

Who will select the six participating colleges?

A committee of Alliance members, which includes a parenting student, will select colleges for the CoP.

What are the goals for the CoP?

Each participating college will:

1. Collect or refine data on student parents,
2. Identify and implement at least two policy or practice changes, and
3. Receive GAINS Act (AB 2458) implementation support.

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How to apply?

Colleges may apply through The Alliance's webpage:
https://castudentparentalliance.org/what-we-do/capacity-building/

When is the submission deadline?

The priority deadline is July 18th, 2025, 5:00 PM PDT. Applications will be accepted until August 1st, 2025.

When will applicants be notified of a decision?

Applicants will be notified of a decision by August 11th, 2025.

Will my college receive money for participation in the CoP?

Upon successful completion of the Community of Practice engagement and deliverables, all participating college teams will receive a $1,000 stipend. Additionally, one college team will receive a $2,500 implementation support award. This award will be granted to the team that fulfills key participation requirements—including attending all sessions and submitting a complete action plan—and is selected by peer institutions as the most helpful and valuable contributor to the Community of Practice.

Who should be a part of a college team?

Each participating college is required to have a team of six members: five staff total from each of the following departments or functional areas and **one parenting student:**

- Administration
- Student Services
- Faculty/Academic Affairs
- Financial Aid
- Institutional Research
- Parenting Student
- Campus-Based Child Care Staff*
- Facilities Management*

Colleges may invite a staff member from their campus-based childcare center and/or their facilities management team to join their campus team, **though it is not required.*

What is the time commitment for participants?

Participants can expect to commit roughly 70 hours to the CoP, encompassing two 4-hour in-person sessions, four 2-hour virtual sessions, and an estimated 8-10 hours of supplementary work to be completed between sessions.

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How often will the CoP meet?

There will be a total of six CoP sessions. The first session will be held in person following the California Student Parent Summit in San Luis Obispo. The next four sessions will be held virtually, occurring monthly from October 2025 through January 2026, with an in-person final session in February 2026. In-person sessions will last 4 hours, and virtual sessions will last 2 hours.

- Session 1: September 11th, 2025 (San Luis Obispo, California)
- Session 2: October 15th, 2025 (virtual)*
- Session 3: November 19th, 2025(virtual)*
- Session 4: December 10th, 2025 (virtual)*
- Session 5: January 21st, 2026 (virtual)*
- Session 6: February 18th, 2026 (in-person, TBD)*

**These are tentative dates, and may be adjusted based on campus availability and preference.*

Who should complete the application on behalf of my campus?

We suggest that a member of campus leadership (e.g., President, Vice President of Student Services, or Dean of Students) complete the application due to their proximity to policy implementation and ability to support the execution of the campus action plan. However, colleges can designate who is best to submit the application on their institution's behalf.

What documents will be needed to complete the application?

- A Letter of Support signed by the college president or by the leaders of 3 relevant campus programs (e.g., women's resource center, campus child care center, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services) on the institution's letterhead. A sample template can be found here.
- Please note that a Letter of Support signed by your campus president on the institution's letterhead is required if a member of campus leadership does not complete your application.

How long will it take to complete the application?

- The application will take approximately 25 minutes to submit, not including time spent gathering documents, signatures, or additional information for completion.
- Once you begin the application, you may save and come back as needed.

Who to contact with questions?

For questions, please email **studentparentsuccess@californiacompetes.org**