



Serve

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## Children & Family Services Division Office of Child Abuse Prevention

### **PARENT ACADEMIES**

*A customized training and support program for the development of parents as leaders*

In 2012, the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) awarded Parent Services Project, Inc. (PSP) a three year grant to establish parent leadership academies. The academies engage, train, and promote parents as leaders within their families and communities. PSP named this project, Leaders for Change: Protective Factors in Action. The current grant cycle began July 30, 2015 and will conclude June 30, 2016.

PSP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to integrating family support, family engagement and parent leadership into early childhood programs, schools and community settings. This is accomplished through training, technical assistance and on-the-ground programs. Starting with the unique insight, expertise and passion that families have for their children, PSP creates opportunities for positive change at the individual and community level. Since their founding in the San Francisco Bay area in 1980, their programs have operated in over 20 California counties and 19 additional states and US territories, touching the lives of some 45,000 families.

PSP engages and strengthens families to take leadership for the well-being of their children, families and communities. Family engagement and leadership creates social change and equity for all. From this foundation, all children, regardless of their background or circumstances, can develop to their fullest potential, supported by a caring community.

In 2015-16, PSP will establish Parent Academies in 6 California counties over a 12 month period, integrating the five protective factors of the Strengthening Families Initiative and strengthen the leadership capacity of diverse parents with a focus on increasing population diversity and father, to be effective advocates in the systems serving children and families.

In addition, PSP will build the capacity of Leaders for Change (L4C) participants to become L4C trainers. L4C is a 20-hour training program grounded in the evidence-based Five Protective Factors of the Strengthening Families Initiative. This nationally accepted initiative strengthens families, promotes optimal child development, and reduces the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. (For details, refer to [www.cssp.org](http://www.cssp.org).) Parents are equipped with knowledge and skills in leadership and advocacy to prepare them to create change in their families, organizations, and communities

For more in depth information on Parent Academies and L4C, please visit the Parent Services Project website at: [www.parentservices.org](http://www.parentservices.org).

Parent Academies are funded by [CBCAP](#) and [CAPTA](#).