

Parent Trust Fund

Parent Leadership Development Programs

Program Purpose

The Parent Trust Fund is a Connecticut family civics initiative established in 2001 under Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-4u. The purpose of the Parent Trust Fund is to support parent leadership development programs aimed at improving the health, safety, and education of children by training parents in civic leadership skills and supporting increased, sustained and quality parental engagement in community affairs.

Funding

State allocation of \$267,194

Eligible Applicants

Public and non-profit organizations that demonstrate the financial and administrative capability to implement the grant.

Program Design

Programs funded by the Parent Trust Fund are evidence-based parent leadership development models that meet regularly over a sustained period, typically lasting 10 to 25 weeks with weekly sessions of two to three hours. Participants complete individual or group projects in their community to fulfill graduation requirements.

Evidence-based program models include the Parent Leadership Training Institute (by The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity), Parents Seeking Educational Excellence (by Partners for Educational Leadership), and UConn People Empowering People Communities (by University of Connecticut Extension).

Matching Funds

Applicants must provide a minimum of 25 percent in matching funds.

Program Locations

Current Grantees: Catalyst CT (formerly RYASAP in Bridgeport), Bristol Public Schools, Families Network of Western CT (Danbury), Middletown Public Schools, CT Partnership for Children (Naugatuck Valley), New London Youth Services Bureau, and The Bridge Family Center (West Hartford).

Numbers Served

170 parents representing the demographic diversity of their communities

Benefits To Parents, Students, and Communities

Parent leadership development programs equip parents with the skills to increase their involvement in their children's education and local communities. Participants learn relationship building, effective communication, conflict resolution, public system navigation, advocacy, and public policymaking engagement. As parents gain self-confidence, they become change agents, positively impacting their communities. Children benefit when parents actively advocate and participate in decision-making, while communities gain from parents applying democratic principles to civic initiatives.