

# The Center for Parent Leadership and Advocacy in Child Welfare



## For Parents, By Parents

Parents who have been through Maine's child welfare system can become powerful leaders to make change.

Our state has a strong history of engaging with parents with lived experience who work in partnership with the state child welfare agency. There is an ongoing need for parent voice and advocacy in all aspects of system reform activities.

To address this need, the Maine Child Welfare Action Network (MCWAN) has engaged parent experts to establish a new initiative for the network, the Center for Parent Leadership and Advocacy in Child Welfare (CPLA).

The goal of the CPLA is to develop a group of parent advocates within MCWAN who have lived experience with child protection and other family serving systems, and the skills to use their experiences to inform policy and affect practice change.

The CPLA will train and provide ongoing support to small cohorts of parent leaders, with the first cohort to begin in late 2022. New cohorts will be trained annually.

The Maine Child Welfare Action Network values involving those who are affected by the problems in designing the solutions. The Center for Parent Leadership and Advocacy in Child Welfare promotes all the network's values, including working in partnership with the state child welfare agency to find alignment whenever possible, while honoring the autonomy of each organization.

As an initiative of the Maine Child Welfare Action Network, the Center for Parent Leadership and Advocacy in Child Welfare will support parents to:

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Build a strong foundation to become an advocate and a leader in the community

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Develop the skills to tell their story and contribute to policy change

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Reflect on experiences and build a peer-to-peer support network

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Engage with expert parent consultants to learn more about the child welfare system

For more information,  
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