

Mass ParentCorps

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January 27, 2026

Agenda for Today

- Highlights from the Past Few Months
- What we learned from the Parent Focus Groups
- Our Strategy Moving Forward
- Timeline and Next Steps



Overview

Stakeholders

+

Parent Leaders



How to get started:

- Operating model for pilot
- Governance and key roles
- Funding

Frame our Vision...

- Where we are now?
- Where we might go?



...And then help identify what we need to get there

Highlights from Stakeholders

Stakeholder Meetings: EEC, Boston Opportunity Agenda, DESE, NY Metro Center, MSPCC, Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges, The Boston Foundation

- Strong commitment to parent leadership development
- Parent leaders' contributions are highly valued
- Shared agreement on structured leadership, educational and career pathways
- Substantial work already underway can be built upon
- Start simple – 1 small cohort, 1 community college, not for credit, nest within existing enterprise

What We're Learning from Parents

- Parent focus groups, referred to by five pioneering parent leadership leaders, offer a meaningfully representative snapshot of parent leadership in its most advanced form
- Many strengths and successes were evident, reflecting the strong work of sponsoring CBOs
- In addition, a number of gaps, barriers, and opportunities for improvement were identified



How did they describe their roles

Clearly defined but diverse parent leadership roles, common themes:

- Advisory Board Member
- Parent Ambassador
- Family Advocate
- Playgroup Facilitator
- Community Organizer
- Parent Partner
- Health Care Navigator
- Family Engagement Coordinator



How Parent Leaders Described their Skills and Barriers

Skills Learned in Current Roles

- Effective Communication
- Public Speaking
- Advocacy
- Leadership Development
- Confidence Speaking Up
- Facilitation & Group Management
- Relationship Building
- Understanding and Navigating systems
- Problem Solving

Skills Missing/First Years

- Confidence
- Public Speaking
- Advocacy
- Leadership
- Understanding System & Policies
- Time Management

Barriers

- Language Barriers
- Lack of Time (Balancing Work and Family Responsibilities)
- Inconsistent Communication
- Limited Financial Compensation

Areas for Improvement

- Inconsistent pathways for growth beyond initial leadership roles
- Limited access to credentials, compensation, or career-aligned opportunities
- Variation across CBOs in structure, support, and sustainability
- Strong desire for clearer pathways and **shared standards** across organizations while accommodating different needs

Key Takeaways

- Strong excitement for a statewide parent leadership model
- Interest in shared learning, credentials, and workforce alignment
- Opportunities to strengthen—not replace—existing CBO-led leadership models
- Access to resources
- Equity & opportunity
- Recognition of parent leadership

Strategy Moving Forward

- Parent leadership courses with community-based practicum opportunities
- Co-design with participating CBOs, parent leaders and community colleges
- Small, intentional pilot cohort with 20-25 emerging parent leaders
- Flexible structure with room for learning and iteration
- Clear evaluation plan

Next Steps for CBOs

- Participate in Steering Committee – March – April
 - 3-4 meetings
 - \$5000 stipends will be distributed by the end of February (\$1000 stipend for parent leader)
- Contact Don and Magda if want to be part of the pilot design working group
- Nominate emerging parent leaders to be part of the pilot

Timeline

- February:
 - ✓ Steering Committee/Theory of Change Planning Meeting
 - ✓ Pilot Working Group Starts
- March
 - ✓ Steering Committee 1st and 2nd Meeting
 - ✓ Website is launch
 - ✓ Pilot Working Group Meetings
 - ✓ Further fundraising for Pilot
- April
 - ✓ Steering Committee 3rd Meeting
 - ✓ Pilot Working Group Meetings
 - ✓ Parent Leadership Advisory Starts
 - ✓ Fundraising for Pilot
- May
 - ✓ Pilot Working Group Meetings