

A User's Guide to the Parent Partner Program Navigator

Child welfare agencies across the country are turning to parent partner programs as a powerful approach in their efforts to change the way they work with families. Through these programs, parents with experience in child welfare mentor and support other parents who are entering the system. Preliminary research suggests that parent partner programs can improve family engagement in services and create opportunities for improved child welfare outcomes, including more timely reunification.

The [Parent Partner Program Navigator](#) is a comprehensive resource agencies can use to design and implement successful parent partner programs.

Domain 1: Assessing Needs, Readiness, and Capacity

[Domain 1](#) highlights the preimplementation steps necessary for success. This domain includes tools for assessing current capacity and developing a parent partner program theory of change.

Check out the [Readiness Assessment Tool](#) to assess existing capacity and capacity building needs.

Domain 2: Program Design

[Domain 2](#) provides program development guidance. It includes concrete resources to develop a design team, identify the right program model, and develop a process for recruiting and developing parent partners.

Check out "[Component 7: Recruiting and Selecting Parent Partners](#)" for sample parent partner selection criteria.

Domain 3: Program Management

[Domain 3](#) presents important considerations for program leadership and oversight, policies and procedures, supervision and coaching, funding, and compensation. This domain also includes information to help plan for program evaluation and sustainability.

Check out the companion resource, [Parent Partner Program Manual: Sample Policies and Procedures](#), for additional planning support.

Domain 4: Engagement and Partnerships

[Domain 4](#) examines the internal dynamics of leadership, partnership between agency and family leaders, and external opportunities for collaboration with other parent partner programs, community partners, and legislators.

Check out "[Component 23: Partnering to Develop Legislation](#)" for examples of supportive initiatives, including legislation.

NOTE FROM THE FIELD

"The Capacity Building Center for States' Parent Partner Program Navigator and companion manual have been valued resources for our agency as we developed a peer-to-peer model for families working with the state's child welfare system.

The sample program manual was particularly helpful in organizing our processes and policies, since having a sample format and suggestions allowed us to start with a foundation on which to build."

—*State Child Welfare Program Manager*

Check out
module 3 in the
Family Empowerment
and Leadership Academy
e-learning (available on
[CapLEARN](#)) for more
information on
peer-to-peer
support.

How Can You Use the Parent Partner Program Navigator?

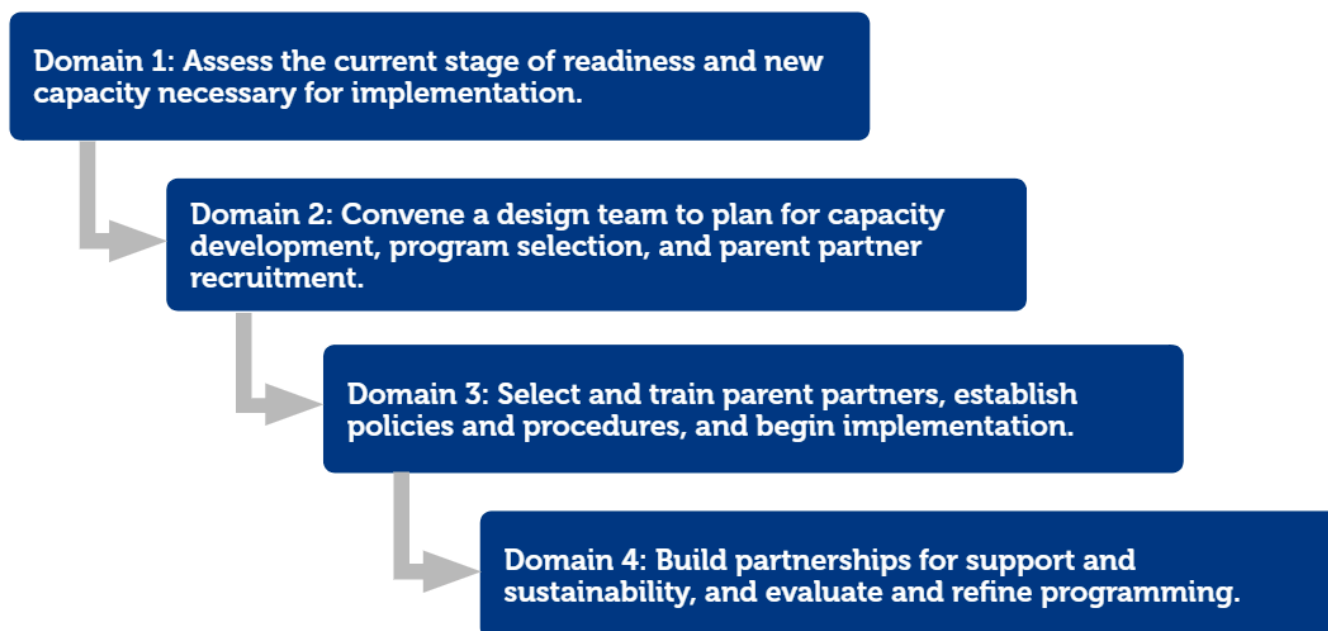
The resources described here can be used alone or together to help agencies build individual, team, and agency capacity to support peer-to-peer parent partnership.

To Create Opportunities for Peer Support

[Domains 1](#) and [2](#) can help agencies learn about the benefits of parent partner programs and understand what the readiness and design processes would entail.

To Develop a New Parent Partner Program Within Your Agency

The full [Parent Partner Program Navigator](#) can be used to design, implement, and sustain a successful parent partner program. In addition, the companion [Parent Partner Program Manual](#) offers language and samples for use in developing a detailed operations guide.



To Strengthen an Existing Parent Partner Program Model

Perhaps the agency is already implementing a parent partner program. [Domain 3](#) and the [Parent Partner Program Manual](#) can support effective program management, including evaluation and sustainability planning. The “[Tools and Resources](#)” section can prompt critical thinking about an existing program and potential new strategies to achieve results.

To ask questions or request free services related to building agency capacity for partnering with families, email capacityinfo@icfi.com or [contact your Tailored Services Liaison](#)

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