

FEBRUARY

NATIONAL PARENT LEADERSHIP MONTH



Office of Child Abuse Prevention 2025 Parent/Caregiver Leadership Awards THE POWER OF PARENT LEADERS

For National Parent Leadership Month, the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) would like to honor parents and caregivers for the work that they do to improve their communities. Therefore, the OCAP will award parent leaders for the Sixth Annual OCAP Parent/Caregiver Leadership Awards!

The OCAP seeks to acknowledge parents/caregivers who strive to achieve positive outcomes to improve the well-being of families, while encouraging other parents/caregivers to take on leadership roles as well. A parent leader represents the views of parents/caregiver and strives to meet the needs of the community.

Parents and caregivers can be leaders in many ways. Here are some examples of what makes a good parent/caregiver leader and how they can help their communities¹:

- 1. Welcoming all families into the community:** Families who are active participants in the life of the community feel welcomed, valued, and connected within the community and to each other. This has an impact on the growth and development of children.
- 2. Communicative:** Parents/caregivers who regularly engage in two-way, meaningful communication with other families and organizations in the community are more aware of the needs of their children, which benefits their learning and social-emotional development.
- 3. Supportive:** Families and community organizations that work together to support children’s learning and development in all aspects of their lives, including at home, at school and in extracurricular activities, will strengthen children’s knowledge and skills.
- 4. Outspoken:** Parents/caregivers are their children’s most important advocate. Parents/caregivers who are empowered to speak up help to ensure that their children have access to opportunities, programs and services that will support their lifetime success.
- 5. Collaborative:** Parents/caregivers who collaborate with other community members are better connected to one another and therefore open up more opportunities for learning, community service and civic participation.



¹This list was adapted from the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships developed by the National Parent-Teacher Association. The original version can be found at <https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/National-Standards-for-Family-School-Partnerships>

Eligibility

To be considered for the OCAP Parent/Caregiver Leadership Awards, the nominee must:

1. **Be a parent or primary caregiver** to a child or children.
2. **Show leadership and commitment to improving family engagement** in your local community and to improving and promoting safety and well-being for other children and families.
3. **Be nominated by someone in your community** such as another parent/caregiver or staff member of an organization or school in your community.

Selection

The OCAP will begin accepting nominations for the OCAP Parent Leadership Awards during Parent Leadership Month in February. The winners will be selected solely by nominations. The panel of judges will review all eligible nominations and select a minimum of three (3) parent leadership winners.

All winners and those who nominated them will be notified on March 14, 2025.

Nomination Deadline

Completed nominations must be received by **February 28, 2025**, at 5:00 p.m. at the link below.

Nomination Guidelines

- Please complete all sections of the nomination application.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Submissions must be completed by completing the form at the following link:

[Parent/Caregiver Leadership Nomination Form](#)

If you have any questions about the OCAP Parent/Caregiver Leadership Awards, please email kidsday@dss.ca.gov

Winners

Winning parents/caregivers of the OCAP Parent Leadership Awards will receive a certificate of acknowledgment and be announced through the OCAP's various online outlets. Winners will also be invited to participate in a virtual ceremony in April in celebration of their award.



Parent/Caregiver Leadership Award Nomination

Please provide the following information at:

[Parent/Caregiver Leadership Nomination Form](#)

Nominee Information

Full Name
Pronouns
Contact Phone
E-mail

Nominator Information

Full Name
Title/Relationship to Nominee
Organization Address, if applicable
Organization Phone, if applicable
E-mail
Organization, if applicable

Prompt

Why are you nominating this parent/caregiver?

Nominee Consent

I certify that I have advised the nominee of their nomination and the nominee consents to being nominated. The nominee meets all eligibility requirements and is considered a parent leader within their community. The nominee understands that if selected, their image will be requested to be featured in publications and social media posts. If the nominee is chosen as a winner, they will be invited to participate in a virtual ceremony in celebration of their award.

