

CBCAP Peer Learning Call:

**Keep Your Tokens in Your Pockets:  
Learning about Authentic Parent Leadership**

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**January 8, 2025**



## How to Participate in Today's Discussion Session

Participant audio will be muted. Participants will be encouraged to unmute their lines to participate in discussion throughout the session.

We will also be monitoring questions through the Chat box and answering them at designated times during the discussion.

This session is being recorded and will be available for viewing once it has been archived. We will notify everyone by e-mail when it is available.





## KEEP YOUR TOKENS IN YOUR POCKETS

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## Learning About Authentic Parent Leadership

January 2025 CBCAP Peer Learning Call,





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*Mission Statement:*

Maine Children's Trust works to strengthen families, promote healthy relationships, and support communities to prevent child abuse and neglect.

*Vision Statement:*

All Maine Children grow up in safe, stable, nurturing families and communities.



# Maine Prevention Councils



## Prevention Planning

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The Prevention Councils utilize a structured approach to build a system of support for local communities and families that live in them by:

- focusing on primary and secondary child abuse prevention strategies,
- a needs assessment which analyzes gaps,
- community input, and
- a county - level advisory board representing the diversity and needs of the county (over 300 community and parent leaders)

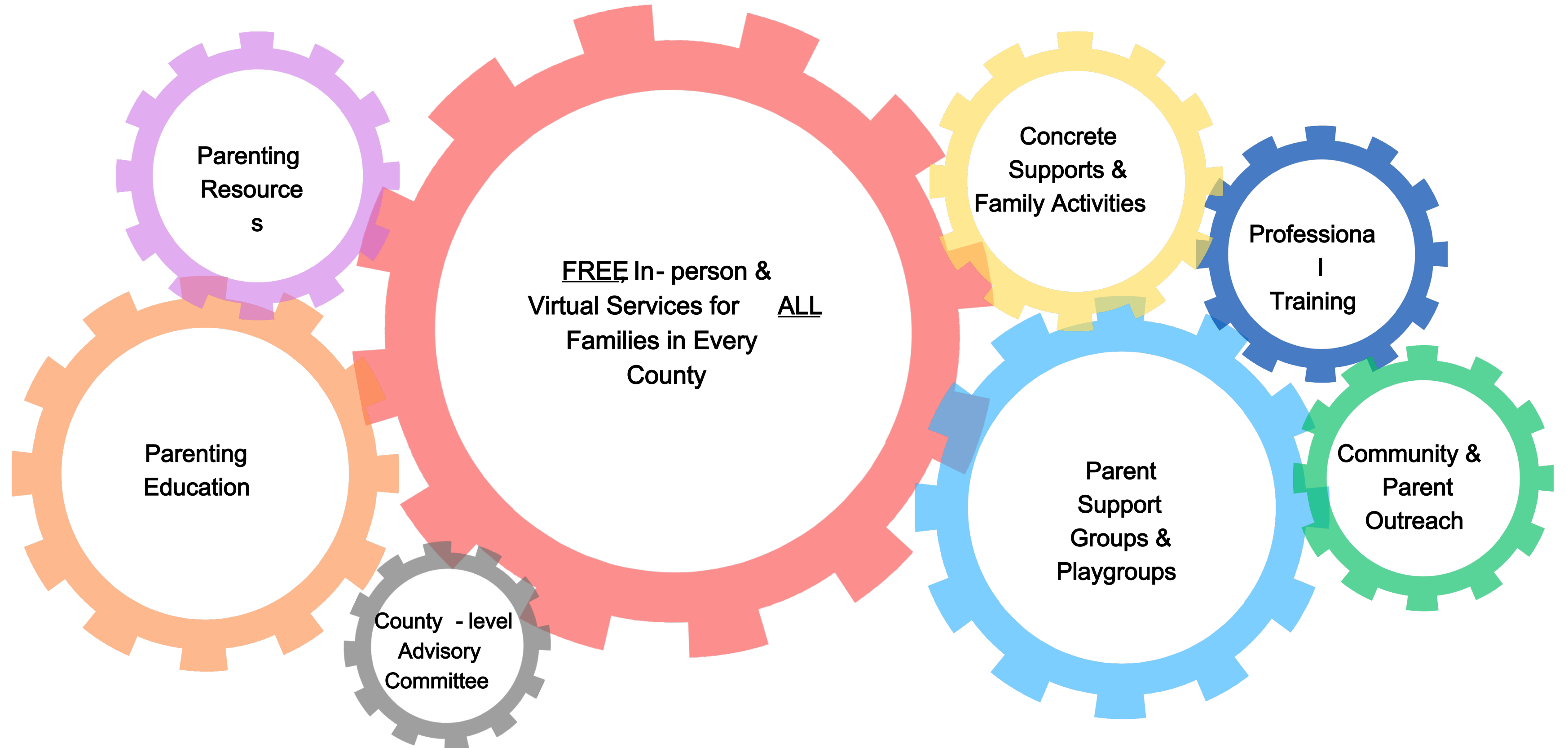
to select approved evidence - based and informed parent education, supports, and strategies to offer in their respective counties for the upcoming year.

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These targeted and individualized prevention plans focus on programs and activities that will lead to the most substantial advancements in preventing child abuse in each county.

# Maine Prevention Councils

Programs & Priorities Using the Strengthening Families Framework





# Approach and Frameworks



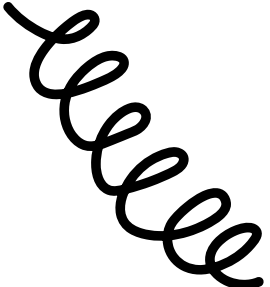
## Strengthening Families Approach: The 5 Protective Factors

Center for the Study of Social Policy



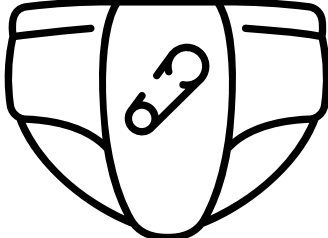
Parental Resilience

Building inner strength



Concrete Supports

Knowing where to find help



Social Connections

Connecting with others



Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Parenting as children grow



Social-Emotional Competency of Children

Helping kids understand emotions



# Approach and Frameworks



## Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support



Family Centeredness

Family Strengthening

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Community Strengthening

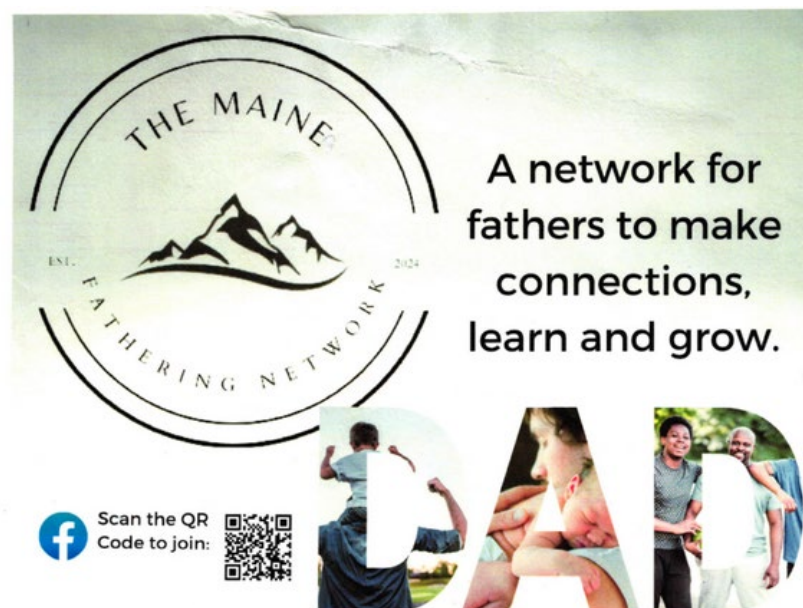
Evaluation



# Joseph Whitmore & Victoria Jordan

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- Initial Participation at local Prevention Council
- How Our Participation Evolved
- Roles & Memberships Now
  - Local Prevention Council - Co-Facilitate Nurturing Fathers Curriculum, Parent Advisory Board, Public Awareness in the Community, & MemoryFox
  - Maine Fatherhood Efforts - New England Fathering Conference
  - MCT Consultant : Speaks at conferences and legislative events, Marketing Efforts, Parent Storytelling Effort, etc .
  - Parent Leaders of New England
  - Member of the FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council
  - Talk with New Case Managers at OCFS
  - Maternal -fetal Infant Mortality Review
  - Maine State Parent Ambassadors
  - Children's Trust Fund Alliance - Birth Parents National Network
  - The Maine Fathering Network
  - Momma's Voices



# Community - Based Spaces

As a part of the Maine Child Safety and Family Well-Being Plan, the Prevention Councils are convening community partners, parents, caregivers, and youth to identify existing Community Based - Spaces for families in every county and assess opportunities to enhance or expand these spaces locally .





# Community - Based Spaces

A Community - Based Space for families must also have all of the following essential components:

- **Physical Location:** Physical space that is welcoming and open to the public
- **Open and Accessible** : Any individual can access the space
- **Responsive & Flexible:** Supports are reflective and responsive to the needs, cultures, and interests of families and the community.
- **No Cost:** Offerings are free and/or at no cost.
- **Supports & Services:** Offered by staff, volunteers, or partners
- **Information & Referrals:** Information about resources is available, and parents, caregivers, youth, and children are connected to services.
- **Family - Centered:** A strengths - based approach that values families, and recognizes them as integral to the planning and development of the community - based space.

# Community - Based Spaces

The supports and services offered at a Community - Based Space for families may include:

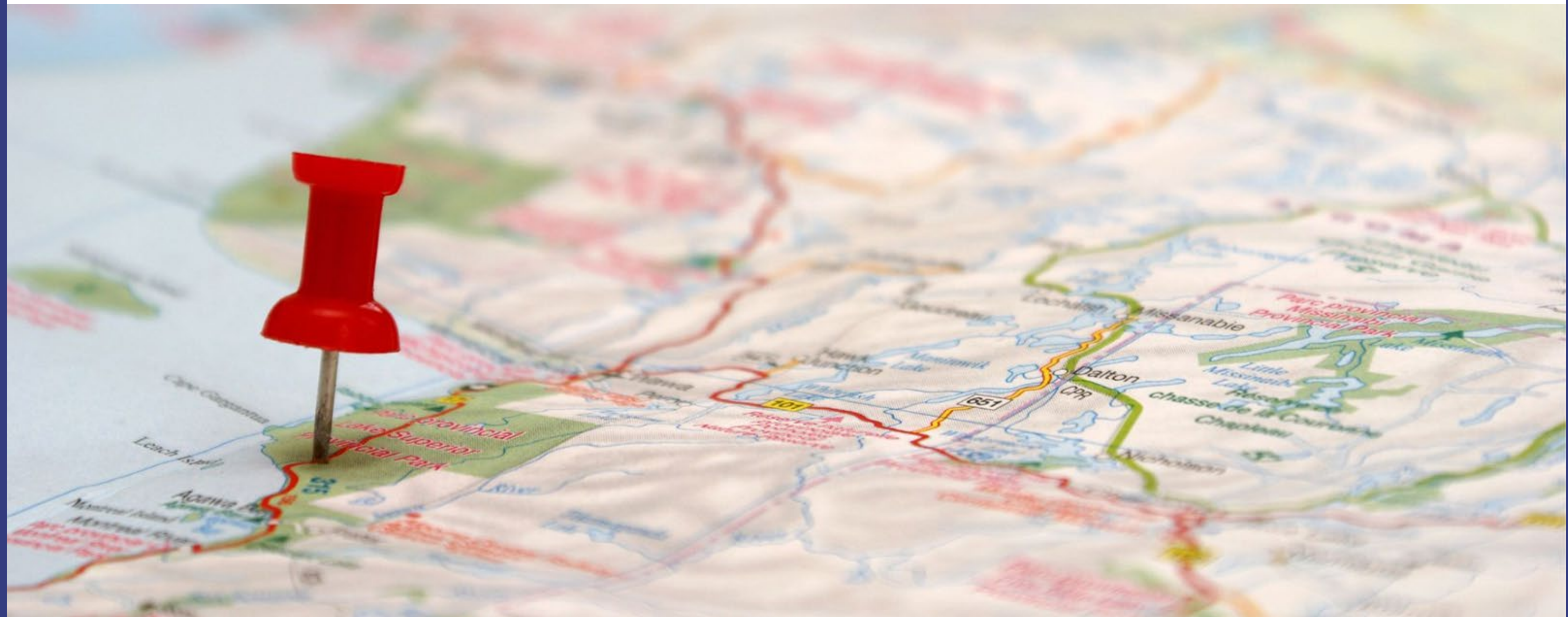
- Parenting/ Caregiver Education
- Parent/ Caregiver Peer Support Groups
- Parent/ Caregiver & Child Interactive Groups or Activities
- Community Development
- Concrete Supports & Resources
- Support School Readiness and School Success
- Parent/ Caregiver Voice & Leadership Opportunities
- Community/ Family Events
- Connections & Collaborations





# Community - Based Spaces

With the help of residents, our community experts, a Community - Based Spaces map for every county in Maine will be built and publicly available.





# February is National Parent Leadership Month



February 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Seek Social Connections		CELEBRATING THE STORIES THAT STRENGTHEN AND CONNECT US		Story Starters	Picture Book Day	Story Collage
Support Child Development	Nature Story Hunt	Story in a Jar	Storytime Charades	Storytelling in Different Genres	Story Mapping	Shadow Puppets
Offer Concrete Support in Times of Need	Story Stones	Story Podcast	Storytelling with Art	Storybook Potluck	Valentine's Day Love Stories	Family Storyboard
Recognize Resilience	Storytime Picnic	Historical Stories	Family Folktales	Travel Tales	Storytime Theater	Story Swap
Yield Social and Emotional Competence of Children	Family Story Journal	Storytime Yoga	Reflection and Future Stories	February is Parent Leadership Month		



## Parent Leadership Month Toolkit:

- Governor's Proclamation Request
- Getting Social for Parent Leadership Month:
  - Detailed Calendar with Social Media Campaign Images, Copy, Post dates, Action Items
- Newsletter & Listserv Content/ Language
- Postcards - Thank you to parents!
- Protective Factor Calendar
- Tear Sheet
- Stickers





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# The Intersection of Fatherhood and Family Systems: A Collaborative Approach

**Michael Cupeles, Parent Leader**

**FRIENDS CBCAP PAC**

**Dawn Dougherty, Assistant Chief Probation Officer**

**Vicinage One**

NJ DCF Office of Family Voice  
Fatherhood Engagement  
Committee

The Office of Family Voice also leads the Department's Fatherhood Engagement Committee (FEC). The FEC's goal is to create a culture that encourages fathers' participation and involvement. The FEC includes staff from DCF and sister state agencies, community stakeholders and system partners, and fathers with lived experiences from across the state.



# NJ Family Court and Child Support

- In 2019, we collaborated with NJ Courts to extend expungement programs to the community.
- In 2022 I was invited to Atlantic and Cape May Counties – Vicinage I, Gun Violence Reduction committee.
- In 2023, we were able to have a space called the “Fatherhood Network Room a.k.a. The Man Cave”

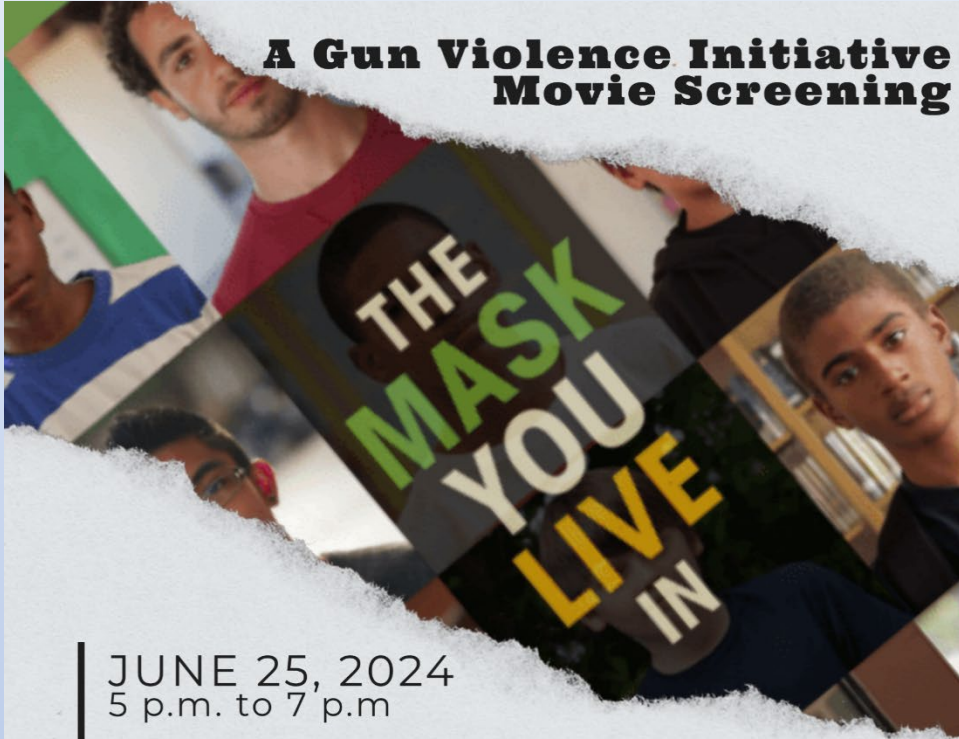




# NJ Family Court and Child Support

- In 2024, We began planning the collaboration between Gateway Community Action Partnership - Probation/Child Support Fatherhood Program.
- We commenced to engage the community and staff with several showings of the documentary "The Mask You Live In."

**A Gun Violence Initiative  
Movie Screening**



**THE MASK YOU LIVE IN**

**JUNE 25, 2024**  
5 p.m. to 7 p.m

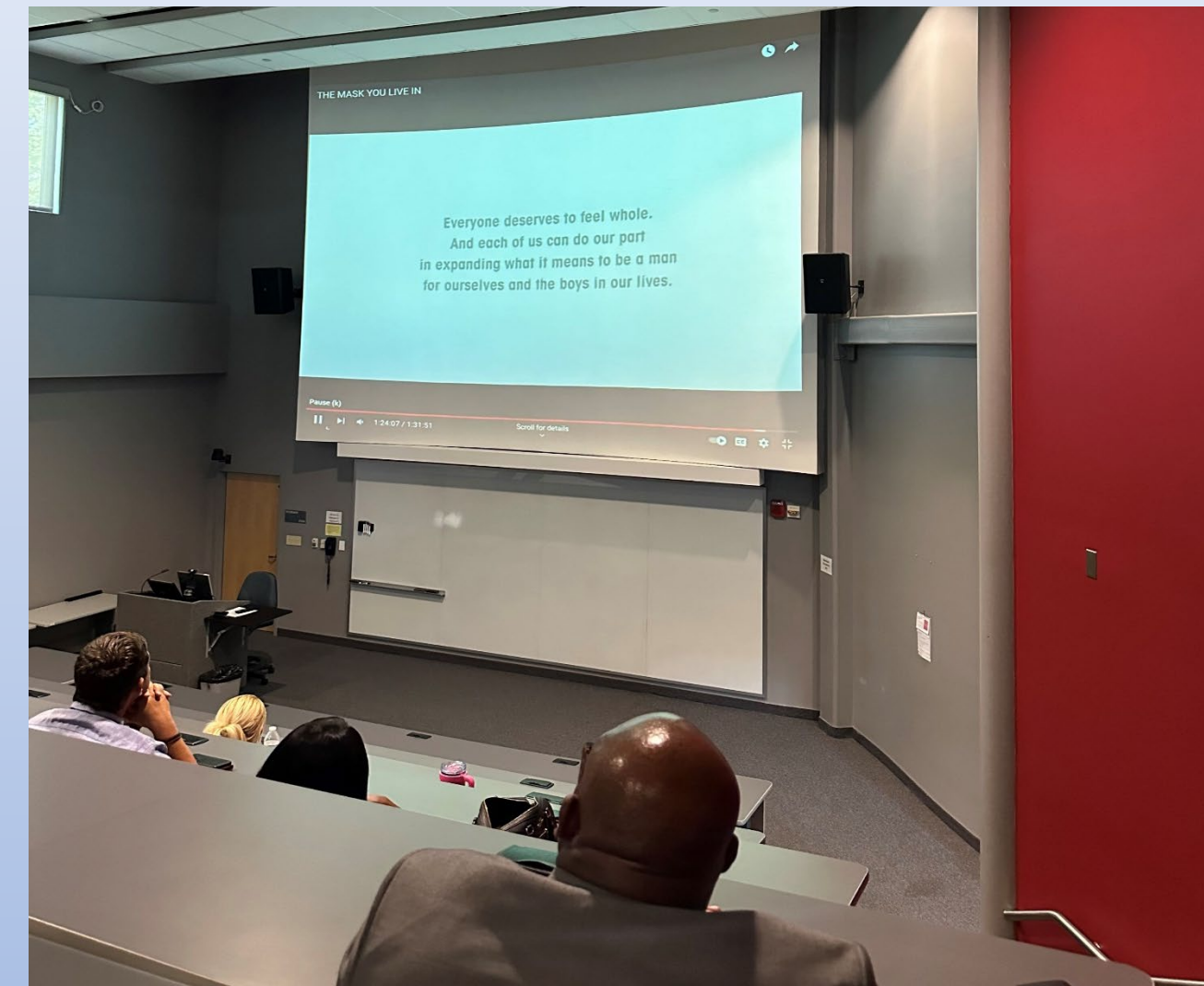

Explores how our culture's narrow definition of masculinity is harming our boys, men and society at large and unveils what we can do about it.

**JOIN US IN THE  
ATLANTICARE MEDICAL ARTS  
PAVILION**

7 S Ohio Ave. Atlantic City, NJ 08401

For More Information: Michael Cupeles  
mcupeles@gatewaycap.org 609-487-4540 ext.4551

**Dads Gateway**





# NJ Family Court and Child Support

- We wanted to assist the non-custodial parents by hosting a session to inform them about navigating Family Court and Making Motions.

**Dads Gateway**

**WHAT IF I CAN'T PAY?**

**LEARN TO NAVIGATE THE CHILD SUPPORT SYSTEM**

JOIN US AUGUST 27, 2024,  
FROM 4 P.M. TILL 6 P.M.

THE FATHERHOOD NETWORK ROOM  
1433 BACHARACH BLVD,  
ATLANTIC CITY NEW JERSEY, 08401

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
**MICHAEL CUPELES**  
MALE INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR

EMAIL: [MCUPELES@GATEWAYCAP.ORG](mailto:MCUPELES@GATEWAYCAP.ORG)  
PHONE: (609)487-4540 EXT. 4551

New Jersey Courts  
Independence • Integrity • Fairness • Quality Service

New Jersey ChildSupport.  
It's more than just money.

Gateway community Action  
PARTNERSHIP  
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK  
Happy People. Changing Lives. Gateway to Success.





# NJ Family Court and Child Support

- We then created a piloted session to assist non-custodial parents to feel as prepared as possible when coming into the Family Court setting.

**Dads Gateway**  
South Jersey's Fatherhood Program  
is Proud to Host:

## A Head Start in Family Court Helping Fathers with Their Concerns

Join us for an informative session designed to help fathers understand the family court process. Learn what to expect during your appearance before the judge, how to prepare, and ways to manage anxiety and emotions. Our goal is to support you through this journey and give you feel confident for your court appearance.

- Learn about the court process
- Know what to expect during your appearance
- Tips for managing stress and emotions

**Tuesday, October 29th, 2024  
At 5 pm**

1433 Bacharach BLVD., Atlantic City, NJ 08401

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
MICHAEL CUPELES, CFE  
telephone: 609-487-4540 ext.4551  
mcupeles@gatewaycap.org**

**Important Notice: No Legal Advice will be Provided**

**Gateway community Action PARTNERSHIP**  
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK  
Helping People. Changing Lives. Gateway to Success.

**SOUTH JERSEY LEGAL SERVICES**

**Gateway Early Head Start and Head Start**





## NJ Family Court and Child Support

- Currently we find ourselves working on the creation of a Safe Haven program for non-custodial parents who may have warrants for their detainment.





*PARENT LEADERS*  
*“The Bridge Over Troubled Waters”*



# *Bridge Maintenance: Foster Parents*

- ◆ 1. Teach parenting classes to foster parents and perspective foster parents.
- ◆ 2. Update foster parents of community resources.
- ◆ 3. Mentor newly approved foster parents through their first year of approval.







# *Bridge Maintenance: Foster Children*

- ◆ 1. Assist with children that do not have a viable placement.
- ◆ 2. Help foster children with finding mentors.
- ◆ 3. Work with graduating senior on ACT prep.
- ◆



*Bridge  
Maintenance:  
Agencies*

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1. Work with the Department of Children Services and private agencies to find and address problem areas in the system .

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2. Work with the Department of Children Services and private agencies on policy development with the state legislation.

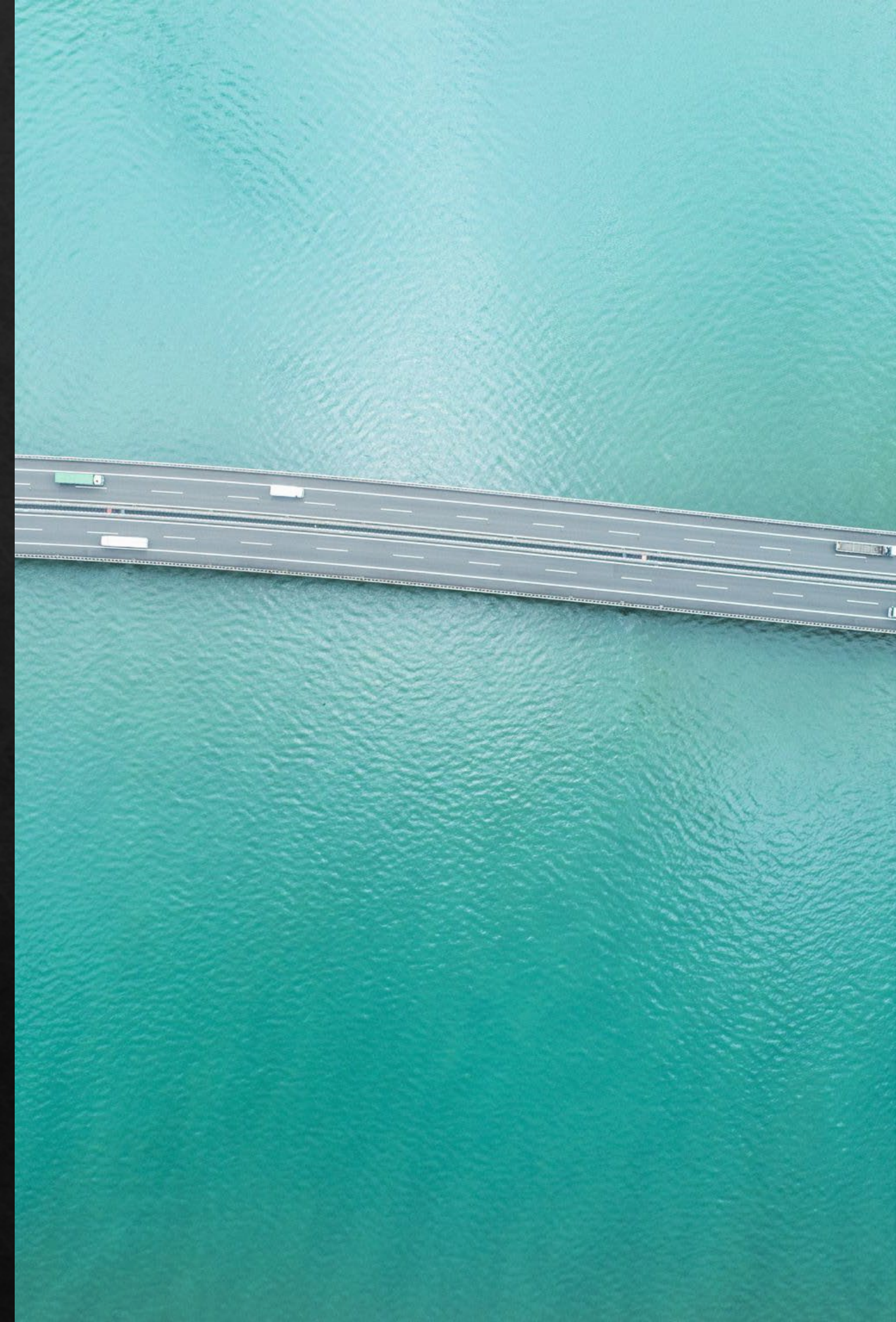
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3. Work with the Department of Children Service and private agencies on community engagement efforts.



# *The Bridge Over Troubled Water*

- ◆ 1. Advocates
- ◆ 2. Educates
- ◆ 3. Associates







# National Parent Leadership Month<sup>SM</sup>

## Resources for Celebrating the Importance and Contributions of Parent Leaders



### What is National Parent Leadership Month?

National Parent Leadership Month (NPLM) was initiated by Parents Anonymous® and highlights the many opportunities available for parents, professionals, policy makers and other community stakeholders to engage in partnerships with the goal of building and supporting strong and safe families.

### Who is a Parent Leader?

Parent leaders contribute to the success of their family, the community, local programs, and state CBCAP efforts in many ways. These parents are:

- The person who facilitates
- The person who reads to their child
- The one who doesn't mind including other children along with their own when going to playground or field trips
- The one who advocates for their child
- The one who makes coffee or cleans up at parent meetings
- The one who knows community resources for families
- The one who volunteers no matter how big or small the job
- The one who talks to the community leaders
- The person who is always there
- The person who is upbeat, positive and welcoming

### National Parent Leadership Month

is celebrated every year in February!

February						
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Where can I find Resources for CBCAP State Lead Agencies and Local Programs to Celebrate NPLM?

On the FRIENDS National Center website:

[National Parent Leadership Month Resources - Friends NRC](#)

**Appreciation Cards! Certificates! Handouts!**  
**Consider using them throughout the year!**

### Did you know?

The FRIENDS National Parent Advisory Council has created materials to recognize and celebrate parent leaders available in both English and Spanish!



# Children's Bureau Updates

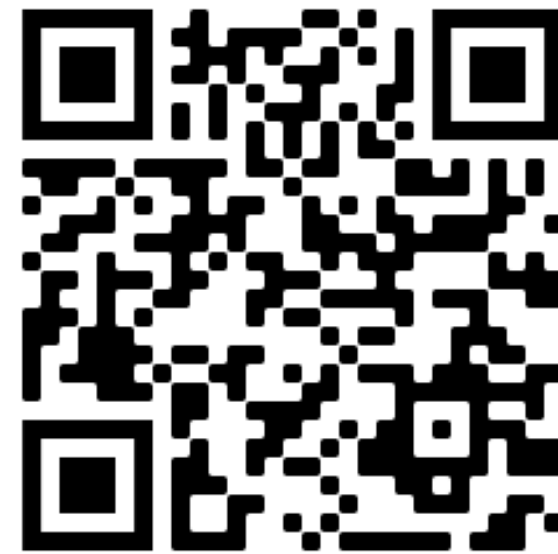


## Opportunity to Provide Feedback



**Please take a moment to scan the QR code and fill out our short evaluation.**

**Your participation in the evaluation will help us to improve our future Peer Learning Calls.**



**SCAN ME**