

Office of Head Start  
National Center

National Center on  
Parent, Family, and Community Engagement  
in collaboration with the National Center on Program Management and Fiscal Operations

# Family Advocacy and Leadership in ERSEA

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Resilience Relationships  
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# Learning Objectives

## Share

Share the research-based benefits of family advocacy and leadership on ERSEA activities and program outcomes

## Identify

Identify how to promote and encourage family advocacy and leadership to strengthen ERSEA in Head Start program

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# Families as Advocates and Leaders in ERSEA

Positive & Goal-Oriented Relationships			
Equity, Inclusiveness, Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness			
PROGRAM FOUNDATIONS	PROGRAM IMPACT AREAS	FAMILY OUTCOMES	CHILD OUTCOMES
Program Leadership Professional Development Continuous Learning and Quality Improvement	Program Environment Family Partnerships Teaching and Learning Community Partnerships <span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">Access and Continuity</span>	Family Well-being Positive Parent-Child Relationships Families as Lifelong Educators Families as Learners Family Engagement in Transitions Family Connections to Peers and Community <span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">Families as Advocates and Leaders</span>	Children are: Safe Healthy and well Learning and developing Engaged in positive relationships with family members, caregivers, and other children Ready for school Successful in school and life

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## Definitions for Shared Understanding

### Advocacy

- Advocacy is defined as any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, explores for a cause, supports or defends, on behalf of others.
- The act or process of supporting a cause, proposal, or person(s).

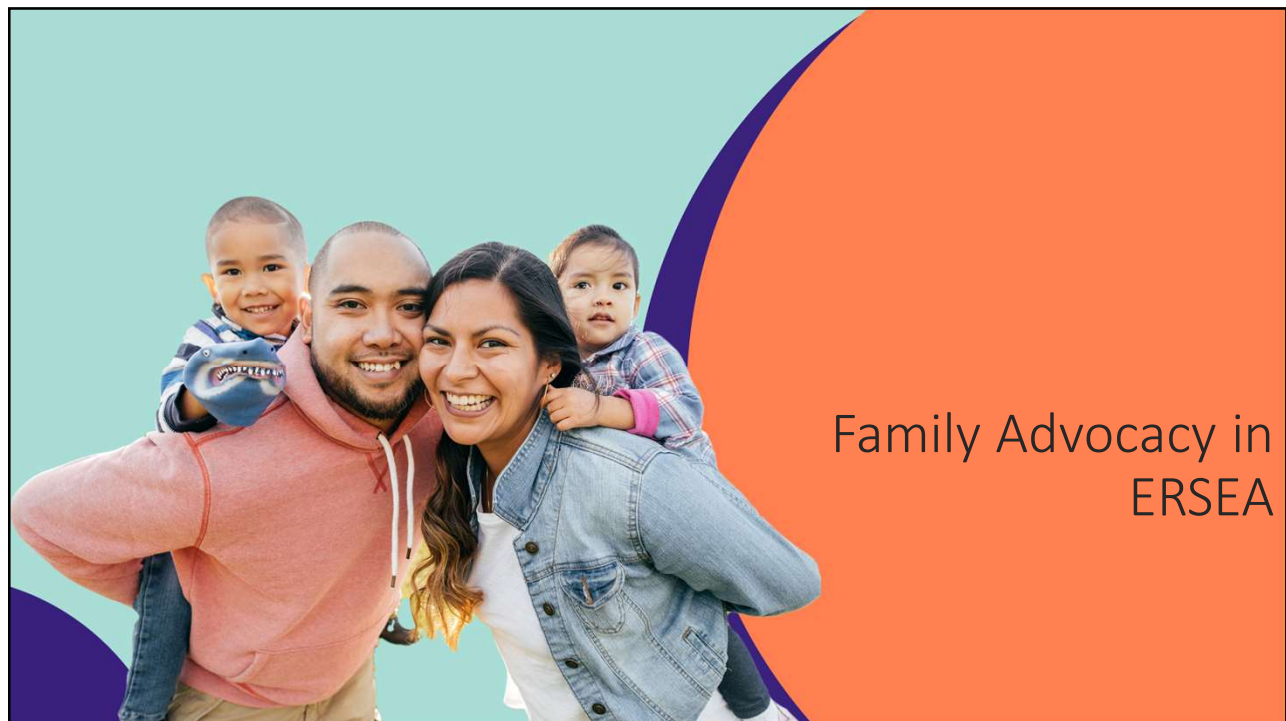
### Leadership

- Family leadership is the capacity to interact in society with purpose and positive outcomes for children.

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Family Advocacy in  
ERSEA

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## When Families Advocate, Everyone Benefits

### Research-proven benefits of family advocacy:

- Families share their Head Start experience with others to promote Head Start services.
- Families provide program information to other families who are looking for family and child supports to meet their interests and needs.

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### Family advocacy impacts ERSEA through:

- Eligibility, selection, and recruitment linked to accessing and retaining more families
- Recruitment and attendance, which leads to improved family and child outcomes

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## When Families Advocate, Everyone Benefits

### Research-proven benefits of family advocacy:

- Families create welcoming environments.
- Families use strength-based attitudes and practices to foster parent leadership.

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### Family advocacy impacts ERSEA through:

- Recruitment and attendance, which promotes diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
- Attendance that is linked to family and child outcomes, and increased family leadership and advocacy

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## The “How” Supporting Family Advocacy in ERSEA

- Provides opportunities for open communication and validates parent concerns
- Encourages relationships that position parents as experts
- Engages in culturally responsive actions that validate families’ culture and values as assets



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## The “How” Supporting Family Advocacy in ERSEA

- Provides families with information and the “rules of the game”
- Pays attention to how information, communication, and leadership opportunities are presented so that all families have a voice and all children are represented

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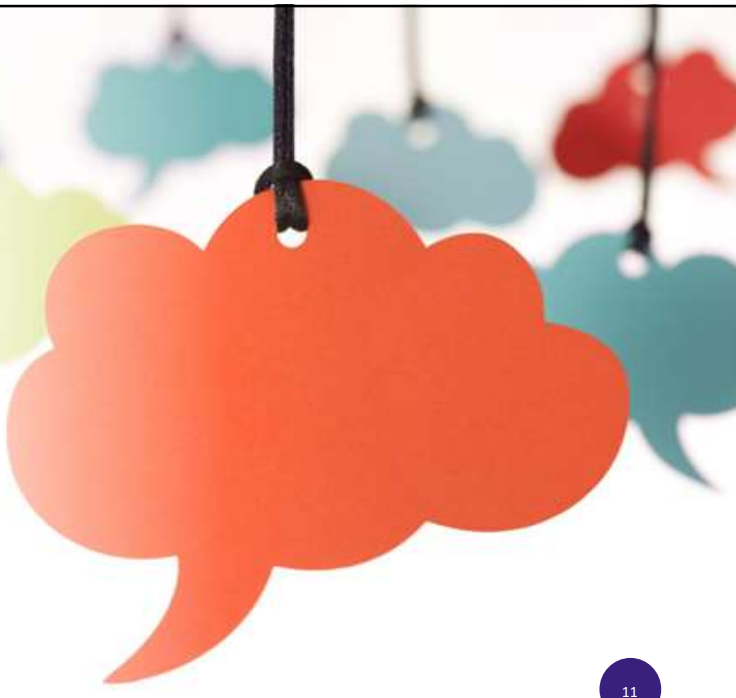
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# The Impact of Family Advocacy in ERSEA

What can your program do to strengthen family advocacy efforts in ERSEA?

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# Family Leadership in ERSEA

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## When Families Lead, Everyone Benefits

### Research-proven benefits of family leadership:

- Family leaders develop knowledge and skills, and they build connections with other families.
- Family leadership helps programs and schools better meet the needs of the children, families, and communities they serve.

### Family leadership impacts ERSEA through:

- Recruitment and Attendance, which leads to retention
- Eligibility and Selection, which are linked to placement

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## When Families Lead, Everyone Benefits

### Research-proven benefit of family leadership:

- Family leadership supports stronger communities that understand the interests and needs of the people who live there.

### Family leadership impacts ERSEA through:

- Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance lead to full enrollment

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## The “How” Supporting Family Leadership in ERSEA

- Supports parent decision-making
- Respects and recognizes parent’s abilities
- Creates space for parent and family voices
- Genuinely considers and integrates the views and wishes of parents and families when program decisions are being made

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## The “How” Supporting Family Leadership in ERSEA

- Encourages parent participation in decision-making and governance
- Supports families as members of advisory boards and planning groups
- Showcases families sharing information about the value of early education within the community

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## The Impact of Family Leadership in ERSEA

What does your program do to support family leadership efforts in ERSEA?

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Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.”

—Ryunosuke Satoro


“Together may we give our children the roots to grow and the wings to fly.”

—Unknown

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Resources

- Families as Advocates and Leaders
- Enhance Parents' Advocacy and Leadership Skills
- Enhance Parents' Advocacy and Leadership Skills: A Guide for Head Start and Early Head Start Staff
- Tips for Families: You Are a Leader
- Supporting Parents as Leaders on the Policy Council
- Equity Considerations for ERSEA

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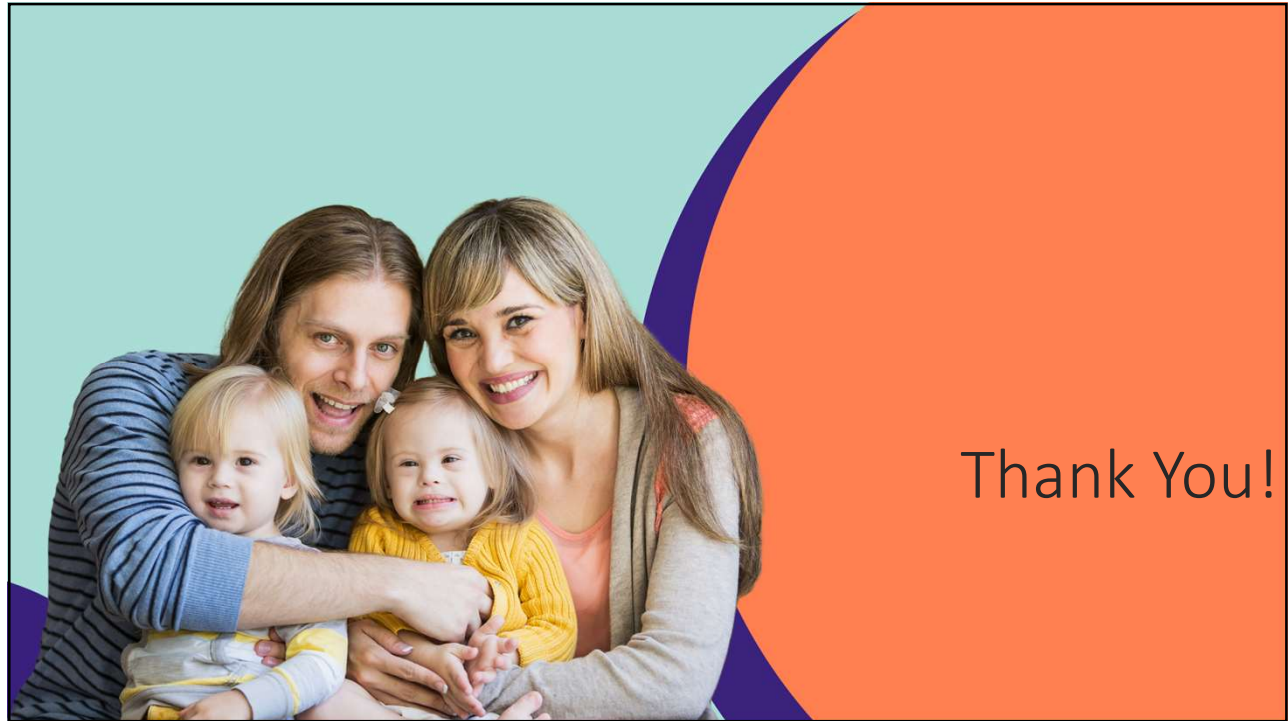
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Questions and  
Answers

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Thank You!

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Parent, Family, and Community Engagement**

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