“As we keep pushing for the progress parents need, we have to take a look at ourselves and how we can meet the needs of families in the changing landscape of our work”

Mary Ignatius
Executive Director
Table of Contents

Executive Director Letter................................................................. 1
Mission and Values........................................................................... 2
History Timeline................................................................................ 3
2023 Campaign Wins......................................................................... 4
Before and After............................................................................... 5
Committee Work................................................................................. 6
Events and Programs......................................................................... 7
Our Chapters......................................................................................... 9
Our People, Our Power................................................................. 10
Supporters......................................................................................... 11
Call to Action..................................................................................... 12
United for Families!
Dear Community,

We achieved profound change and progress in 2023. I am celebrating our victories that were made possible thanks to our parent leaders, partners, and staff. Last year, we continued our fight to overhaul the state’s unjust family fee system and that has led to permanent changes that benefit and will be felt by nearly 375,000 families who utilize subsidized child care. This victory cannot be understated as it was the product of three years of dreaming big, persistence, and a hard-fought parent led campaign to ensure all California families can thrive.

Our year of progress was also felt internally at Parent Voices and with our partners. With guidance from our phenomenal parents, we launched a subcommittee of parents who have children with special needs and soon we will launch another subcommittee focused on survivors of domestic violence. We are contributing to the state’s Race Equity, and Implicit Bias awareness initiative for CalWORKs and CalFRESH. We are also proud to be working in alliance with the immigrant rights movement as part of the Safety Net for All Coalition.

Lastly, since 1996 our organization has been a project of the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, and last year we transitioned to be fiscally sponsored by Community Partners. This journey has been long, but I am thankful to the local resource and referral agencies who hosted local chapters as their support has put us in a position to fight for the changes we seek without limitations. I am excited to see where 2024 will take us and ask that you continue supporting our work to center families of color in system’s change work that benefits our children, families, and child care providers across California!

In Solidarity,
Through grassroots organizing and leadership development, we activate and center the wisdom of parents to transform child care and ensure all systems that impact our families are just, fair, and inclusive. Parent Voices is a partnership of parents throughout California that combines leadership development and community organizing to increase funding and provide better access to child care for all.

**Mission & Values**

**Power**

We believe parents have the capacity and ability to transform the systems that impact them to be more just. Parents know the solutions to the problems they face and lead campaigns for change while building collective power.

**Dignity**

Every family and child care provider deserves to be treated with respect. However, systems were not built with dignity in mind. We strive to create a culture where everyone feels valued and seek policy changes that restore dignity.

**Love**

While policy change is vital, the love that is fostered amongst our members is transformative. We celebrate milestones, graduations, baby showers while also being there in times of crisis and struggle. We fight hard and love harder.

**Justice**

We advocate for racial, gender, and economic liberation, so that all families have access to affordable child care. Every family and early educator deserves the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances.
History Timeline

1996  Parent Voices is founded alongside 5 local chapters. A group of parents travel to Washington D.C for the first ever Stand For Children Day.

1997  Over 50 parents attended our first annual gathering and legislative day in Sacramento, Stand for Children Day in the Capitol.

2003  Advocated and saved 59,000 child care spaces supporting 31,000 families.

2008  Saved $198 million in proposed budget cuts to child care. This kept 18,000 child care spaces from being eliminated.

2009  Advocated to win $15 million in new federal stimulus dollars to serve families on the child care waiting list.

2010  Parent Voices Oakland won a lawsuit to temporarily restore Stage 3 child care that was eliminated in the state budget.

2012  Prevented the elimination of 32,500 child care slots and $577 million in cuts!

2017  Won the most progressive child care eligibility policies in the U.S. with longer recertification periods and annual income guideline updates.

2018  Joined advocates in the ECE Coalition to win nearly $1 billion in investments into the child care system.

2020  Won 20,000 vouchers for Essential Workers and new priority for families experiencing domestic violence or have children with special needs.
2023 Campaign Wins!

The 2023 campaign was the culmination of three years of work, beginning with our Membership Retreat in 2019, where parents identified family fees as a major issue and discussed the sacrifices they made to maintain child care. The pandemic led to temporary relief in the form of family fee waivers, but that was set to expire on September 30th, 2023. Addressing this upcoming obstacle was made possible by mobilizing our collective parent power, members, and partners, to enact changes for families and our amazing child care providers!

Family Fees

- Won a new equitable family fee schedule that went live on October 1, 2023.
- Eliminated $100 million/year in fees for families earning at or below 75% of state median income (SMI) and capped fees at 1% for those earning more. Collaborated with Laura Pryor and Erik Saucedo at the California Budget and Policy Center on a joint report, *Mending Harmful Family Fees: Expanding Possibilities for California Families* that combined qualitative and quantitative data to describe the historic policy change.

Provider Rates

- We were proud to stand in solidarity with Child Care Providers United (CCPU) as they led the effort to win child care reimbursement rate reform based on the true cost of care.
- PV leaders testified in budget hearings and spoke with the media to educate lawmakers on the negative impact of low rates on families’ access to child care.
Today, there are 113,000 vouchers across the state and 27,000 center slots that support families!

A family of four can now make over $8,000 a month and still qualify for a subsidy! No more pay cuts!

Family fees are eliminated for almost every family, and fees are now a maximum of $61 a month!

The Governor eliminated the Stage 3 Child Care program which impacted 60,000 families.

Families with variable income had to give their paychecks every 3 months.

A family of four making $4,000 a month didn’t qualify for a subsidy, forcing some to take pay cuts and turn down raises.

Families now only have to prove their income every 12 and 24 months.

A family of four can now make over $8,000 a month and still qualify for a subsidy! No more pay cuts!

Family fees are eliminated for almost every family, and fees are now a maximum of $61 a month!

In 2020, there were an estimated 50,000 child care vouchers and 23,000 center slots across California.

Today, there are 113,000 vouchers across the state and 27,000 center slots that support families!

The Stage 3 Child Care program was restored and will be protected from being cut!
Committee Work

Special Education

A new subcommittee launched for members with special needs children. The group conducted listening sessions with the California Department of Public Health’s Children and Behavioral Health Initiative which led to a report (read here).

Domestic Violence

A grant from the Blue Shield Community Foundation and a partnership with the Child Care Resource Center allowed Parent Voices to conduct listening sessions to provide guidance to the Department of Social Services on methods to better support survivors of domestic violence (DV). These efforts led to a new PV subcommittee for survivors to foster community and make recommendations.

CalWORKS and REIB

The Race Equity and Implicit Bias (REIB) awareness initiative through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) contracted with Parent Voices to conduct listening sessions with parents to hear their perspectives using social services. This feedback led to the development of training and tools used to train CalWORKs and CalFRESH staff. PV remains on the advisory committee and involved in the Cal Outcomes and Accountability Review project (CalOAR).

Immigration Work

Parent Voices actively engaged in the Safety Net for All Coalition to demand that all immigrants, regardless of status, should qualify for unemployment benefits. PV leaders participated in hearings, spoke to media, and attended coalition retreats in support of SB227 (Durazo). PV now is an active member of Northern California for a Just Immigration Reform Coalition as part of the All in for Registry Campaign, a national campaign to give a path to citizenship for immigrants (H.R 1511 & S.2606).
Events & Programs

**Knowledge is Power**

Parent Voices held its annual Knowledge is Power training for 80 families to learn how the state budget process works and how they can take action to mobilize their communities to fight for the needs of California families!

**Stand for Children Day**

Over 350 people mobilized on May 10 at the Capitol for the first time since Covid. We had youth leaders serve as MC’s for our “People’s Budget Press Conference” and others served as Senators for our “People’s Budget Hearing.” We then marched and visited 25 legislative offices including Kim Johnson and Jennifer Troia in the Department of Social Services and Richard Figueroa in Human Services.
White House Presentation

We were invited to present at the White House for the States Convening on Child Care on July 19 to discuss our successful 3 year campaign to improve the family fee system. We were proud to celebrate the work and determination of our parents in making this happen and to join Senate Budget Chair, Senator Nancy Skinner.

Celebrating the Family Fees Victory

While we are so proud of the progressive policy change we won, the more important victory is watching families see their power realized. The incredible relationships parents from across California make with each other is key to our success. In August we celebrated the love, dignity, justice, and power of our members at a picnic in the Bay Area. We also hosted a webinar on October 2 when the new fee schedule went into effect featuring PV Parent Leaders, child care providers, elected officials, and experts on the family fees system. The gathering celebrated the impact of this profound victory as a community!

Membership Retreat

Over 50 parent leaders, organizers, and fellows gathered from November 3 to 5 for our annual Leadership Convening. We celebrated our family fees victory, developed our policy priorities, and deepened relationships with our network. Parents also presented their priorities related to child care, CalWORKs, immigration, special education, and domestic violence prevention to key budget and Department of Social Services staff.
Our Chapters

We have 7 amazing chapters at Parent Voices CA. Chapters are crucial for our grassroots organizing to recruit new members and strengthen parent power!

- Sonoma
- Marin
- Contra Costa
- San Francisco*
- Oakland*
- Santa Clara
- San Diego

*PV Oakland is its own 501(c)(3) and PV San Francisco has been fiscally sponsored by the Children’s Council since 1996. Both remain chapters of Parent Voices CA.
Our People, Our Power!

Statewide Team

Executive Director:
Mary Ignatius

Parent Policy Director:
Jennifer Greppi

Parent Organizing Director:
Blake Hofstad

Operations & Logistics Coordinator:
Cassandra So

Contra Costa Organizing Fellow:
LeShay Burks

Oakland Executive Director:
Clarissa Doutherd

Oakland Fellow:
Marlyn Lemus

San Francisco Organizer:
Maria Luz Torre

Marin Community Organizer:
Amarantha Silva

Santa Clara Organizing Fellow:
Liliana Camacho

Sonoma Organizing Fellow:
Martha Valdez

San Diego Organizing Fellow:
Monique Rosas

Advisory Board

Community Ally:
Cesar Hernandez

Parent Leader:
Eloise Rossiter

Parent Leader:
Gladys Soto

Parent Leader:
Anabel (Dita) Quinones

Parent Leader:
Kristel England

Community Ally:
Luan Huynh

Provider Leader:
Tonia McMillian
Supporters

Funders

Blue Shield of California Foundation
California Community Foundation
California Wellness Foundation
Community Change
Conrad Hilton Foundation
David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Heising-Simons Foundation
Miriam and Peter Hass
Raising Child Care Fund
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Women’s Foundation of California

Partner Organizations

Black Californians United for ECE
California Budget and Policy Center
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Child Care Law Center
Child Care Providers United
Child Care Resource Center
Every Child California
National Women’s Law Center

State Coalitions

California Care Can’t Wait
California Work and Family Coalition
Early Care and Education Coalition
End Childhood Poverty in California
Safety Net for All Coalition
Stronger CA Advocates Network

National Coalitions

Child Care for Every Family Network
Community Change
United Parent Leaders Action Network
We are fueled by our wins in 2023, and we are excited for the path ahead! Join and support us as we continue to fight for families across California! Your engagement is crucial to our organizing efforts.

1) Donate any amount to us to support our mission

2) Join our newsletter or a PV chapter near you

3) Follow and engage with us on social media