



## Community and Family Engagement Council (CFEC) Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Help Me Grow Community Family Engagement Council?

The Help Me Grow Community Family Engagement Council (HMG-LA CFEC) is an advisory group to Help Me Grow Los Angeles (HMG-LA). CFEC is comprised of 12-15 Parent Champions. The role of CFEC is to help ensure early childhood services and resources meet the needs of children with or at risk of behavioral and/or developmental delays and disabilities. CFEC will ensure that families and children remain at the center of all HMG-LA efforts.

### What is a CFEC Parent Champion?

Parent Champions serve as members of CFEC. They are parents and caregivers with community leadership and outreach experience. Parent Champions are familiar with the experiences, concerns, and perceived stigmas around children with or at risk of behavioral and developmental delays and disabilities and have an interest in creating positive changes in the current early childhood system.

### What is the Role of a CFEC Parent Champion?

The role of an CFEC Parent Champion is to help County officials build HMG-LA, a system for connecting families with resources that support healthy development of young children. Parent Champions will give input, feedback, and make suggestions that will help build an efficient and effective system. Parent champions will also help spread the word about HMG-LA by reaching out to other parents in their neighborhood and the surrounding community.

### Are there Preferred Qualifications for HMG-LA CFEC?

In order to have a council best prepared for immediate implementation. HMG-LA CFEC must be representative of a variety of family experiences that will support the diversity of Los Angeles County families being assisted by HMG-LA. Preferred experiences/qualifications (but not required) for CFEC members include:

- A passion to represent and support families and caregivers from one or more of the following key parent-centered networks and groups:
  - Families with children and youth with special healthcare needs (“CYSHN”)
  - Families with children who are at risk or who have a developmental delay or disability (e.g., speech and language delay, Autism, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder)
  - Families with children and youth with behavioral and infant mental health issues (e.g. trauma, ACES/toxic stress)
  - Families with children and youth with exposure to toxins (Lead)
  - Families with children and youth who have experiences with the child welfare system (i.e. former foster youth via DCFS)
  - Families of children who have experience with early childhood education (e.g., Head Start, preschool, Special Education for infants and toddlers)



- Have used or is familiar with behavioral or developmental disabilities services, resources, and supports (e.g., Special Education, Regional Center).
- Have experience in advocating for change in public policy
- Have interest in working within systems to support solutions and to advocate for children at the local and state level

**Why are you asking about my child’s developmental, healthcare and mental health needs?  
Will this information be shared?**

**This information will not be shared outside of the selection committee, consisting of First 5 LA and Department of Public Health employees and consultants, and will not be shared with other selected committee members. All information will be kept confidential.**

These types of questions are typical in selection processes for parent committees leading change. The questions help the selection committee ensure that there are representatives of a variety of family experiences that will reflect the diversity of Los Angeles County families being assisted by HMG-LA.

**Will I still be eligible to participate on the council if I feel uncomfortable responding to these questions?**

**You are not required to answer any questions that make you feel uncomfortable.**

The application is intended as a way for the selection committee to make decisions about the appropriate composition of the CFEC for HMG-LA. If you would like to submit written or verbal information in alternative format, please let us know. You may also submit a resume or summary of your relevant experiences. The questions help us understand your lived experience. If you submit in an alternative format, please be sure to address your experiences in advocating for your own child or others in your community, including supporting system change.

**Why are you asking about insurance coverage, social service agencies, health systems and school environments my family or child has used?**

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HMG-LA will be a system that supports children who need the support of health systems, local educational systems and county social service agencies. It will be important to have committee members who have a variety of insurance system experiences.

**Can I participate if I haven’t served on a committee, task force, or other type of work group?**

Please refer to our statement on preferred qualifications.





## **Do I need experience visiting or corresponding with legislators to participate on the Council?**

Please refer to our statement on preferred qualifications.

## **Will translation services be provided?**

Translation will not be provided. There will be other opportunities at the local level to give input and co-lead efforts with other parents with attention to the diversity of languages with which that input can be made.

## **What if I can't attend one of the sessions?**

It is important that applicants consider their availability for all sessions. As a council member, each member is selected because they help to represent a core part of the family experience among those with young children who might experience challenges and need support from the system. Every session over the next two years is important. As parent leaders we are very aware that scheduling conflicts occur. Every effort will be made to support members who miss sessions.

## **A meeting that lasts four hours seems like a long time. What takes place during these meetings?**

In order to limit the number of meetings per year and to best prepare the council to participate effectively, a half-day meeting is necessary. Each meeting is designed to support the understanding of the key components of HMG and for the council to give informed input and feedback to countywide development efforts.

## **Will transportation reimbursement or childcare services be provided?**

Childcare is not provided for council members participating in advisory meetings. Transportation reimbursement is currently being explored though cannot be guaranteed. \$100 gift cards are available for council members who attend required meetings.

## **Why are you asking about my racial / ethnic background?**

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## **Is there a way I can stay informed about the Council even if I'm unable to participate at this time?**

The structure, organization, and roles will be developed at the first CFEC meeting and will be made in collaboration with CFEC members. It is expected that there will be ways in which LA County families will be informed of the work of the council.





**How will I be notified if I am chosen to participate or not?**

Selected members will receive a letter via email welcoming them to the Council which includes information about orientation (November 2019) and forthcoming training meetings (January 2020).

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