

### **i3 Abstract**

**Title:** Parents As Educators: The CAS Parent Leadership Institute  
**Grant:** Development  
**Absolute Priority:** 6 – Improving Parent and Family Engagement  
Subpart (a) – Developing and implementing initiatives that train parents and families in the skills and strategies that will support their students in improving academic outcomes.

**Description:** The Children's Aid Society (CAS) will bring its Parent Leadership Institute (PLI) to six public schools in a distressed community in the South Bronx, engaging parents of 500 students in varying levels of programming. The PLI model consists of four main components – Parent Resource Centers within school buildings, Parent Coordinators, Adult Education and Training, and Leadership Development – that work together to support parents in their role of primary lifelong educators. The goals of this i3 initiative are to: 1) improve parents' skill and efficacy to mentor and advocate for their children's education; 2) strengthen home-school connections; and 3) increase access to community resources to remove barriers to learning. Through courses and workshops, a dedicated and inclusive space within the school, Parent Coordinators who work to improve collaboration and school climate, and connection to community resources, parent participants will be better able to support learning in the home, gain knowledge and skills related to college pathways, use the education data system to monitor their children's progress, participate in parent/teacher conferences and improve their communication with teachers. The ultimate outcomes we expect to achieve through the PLI are better attendance, test performance and progress toward graduation among students of participating parents than those from a comparison group. A quasi-experimental evaluation design will be conducted by Policy Studies Associates.

**Partners:** C.S. 61  
P.S. 314  
C.S. 211  
Children's Aid College Prep Charter School  
Fannie Lou Hamer Middle School  
Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School