

## **Strategies that Facilitate Family Leadership**

### Addressing Procedural Barriers

- Plan and run meetings to maximize family leadership (provide background information, accessible reading levels and non-text options, pre-meeting planning)
- Provide supports so families can participate (stipends, transportation, childcare, food, use of computers, etc.)
- Create meeting norms and ground rules
- Provide opportunities for family skill building
- Facilitate opportunities for families who want to be advocates and leaders
- Ensure that decision-making groups and committees reflect the cultural and linguistic makeup of programs and communities
- Use data and continuous improvement processes to improve services, systems, structures, and support
- Prioritize family advocacy and leadership

### Addressing Relational Barriers

- Prioritize family-staff relationships
- Provide opportunities for family-staff collaboration in events and presentations
- Offer communication and leadership training for families and professionals together
- Continue to focus on transition
- Use PD and reflective supervision to help staff learn to share power with families
- Start meetings with a family story that focuses on families' strengths, needs, concerns, and successes
- Ask families to start discussions from their perspectives and experiences
- Encourage all voices and family-to-family relationships
- Invite families to partner in a range of activities such as creating and reviewing drafted materials, attending/evaluating PD, or co-presenting at meetings
- Ensure that families have voice and choice in all aspects of the program or system.