



The United
Parents
Project
Parents of
by Black Children

THE UNITED PARENTS PROJECT

AN INTRODUCTION

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario



Parents of
Black Children



The United
Parents
Project

Parents of
by Black Children

Extending the Village: Advocating, Building, Caring

"It takes a whole village to raise a child."

Igbo and Yoruba Proverb

Learn more about the United Parents Project



ABOUT THE PROJECT

- ✓ 3 year initiative
- ✓ 3 core streams
- ✓ Funded by Ontario Trillium Foundation
- ✓ Family Innovations Stream – Test Grant
- ✓ Achedored in evidence-based initiatives for systemic change

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What is the United Parents Project?

The United Parents (UP) project is designed to support parents of Black children as they navigate the education system. It is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Youth Opportunities Fund, Family Innovations Stream.

How does the UP project work?



Capacity Building Workshops

Parents of Black Children will deliver a series of workshops covering topics that disproportionately impact Black children and lead to disparities in outcomes.



System Navigation

A System Navigator will be made available to families, to support them as they interact with their child's school and/or school board in understanding how the education system works in Ontario.



Black Parent Mentorship Program

Black parents with children the same age, will be partnered to support each other as they navigate issues within their children's education experience.

PROJECT CONCEPT

YEAR 1

LEVEL SETTING

Environmental Scan
Project launch
Measure and test

YEAR 2

GRANULAR

Agile response
Reassess
Measure and test

YEAR 3

SCALING

Project rebuild
Sustainability
Measure and test

SUPPORT

CONCEPT IN ACTION – Key Milestones for Yr I

- **Needs Assessment**
- **4 Workshops**
- **Mid-point evaluation**
- **Annual Project Report**

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

- ✓ Keeping up with Math and Language Literacy - Post COVID Solutions
- ✓ What every parent needs to know... Streaming and Programming in schools...including French Immersion
- ✓ Exceptionalities in education: Understanding Special Education and Gifted Programs
- ✓ Interrupting harsh discipline: A parent's guide to suspensions and expulsions...including in-school suspensions



HOW IT WORKS

- ✓ Full descriptions of each workshop will be available on the PoBC website
- ✓ Workshops will launch October 2020
- ✓ Families can register to attend on the PobC EventBrite page. Registration details will be shared

Parents of Black children mentorship program

How will it work?

- Rebuilding informal support structures for families
- Capacity for 20 families (10 mentors and 10 mentees)
- Parents will be supported to connect regularly throughout the year
- Regular data collection to see impact of mentor/mentee relationship on outcomes

When it will launch?

- Recruiting parents in October
- Launch – November
- **PARENTS CAN REGISTER via the website:**
www.parentsofblackchildren.org

What will the mentor do?

- Support mentee parents in goal setting for outcomes
- Help create a vision for the school year parent mentee
- Partner with parents to navigate day to day school challenges. Bringing in System Navigator as appropriate
- Help guide parent mentees.

PARENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM - MENTOR CRITERIA

- ✓ Identity as Black (this is important so as to ensure the mentor has lived experience as a Black person)
- ✓ Have children currently in the education system/or children who have graduated from the education system.
- ✓ Be willing to commit at least 10 hours a week or more to conversing with, helping to guide, supporting, and providing advice to parent mentees.
- ✓ Knowledgeable about how anti-Black racism and anti-oppression operates in the education system



MENTEE CRITERIA

- ✓ Mentees should identify as a parent of a Black child
- ✓ Have children currently in the education system
- ✓ Be willing to share their story and experiences with someone in order to receive guidance/support

INTERESTED? GO TO:
parentsofblackchildren.org/black-parent-mentorship-program/



YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Systems Navigation

How does the PoBC Education System Navigator work?

- ✔ Operates outside of the education system
- ✔ An advocate for parents
Support for parents
- ✔ The United Parents Project Navigator works in York Region between both **the York Catholic** and **York Public** District School Boards
 - **NOTE:** PoBC provides navigation support to parents province wide (from Thunder Bay to Windsor)



System Navigation

A System Navigator will be made available to families, to support them as they interact with their child's school and/or school board in understanding how the education system works in Ontario. As a neutral third party they can express the unique needs & challenges faced by African Canadian families.

OUR SYSTEM NAVIGATORS

United Parents Project
Navigator- YORK REGION

PoBC Education System
Navigator – PROVINCIAL



Charline Grant
*United Parents Project and
PoBC Education System
Navigator*



Gregory Hines
*PoBC Education System
Navigator*

When to contact our Navigators?

Think **S.A.F.E**

S **Support** and consultation when you are experiencing challenges within the education system

A **Advocacy** and Africentric wrap around for parents of Black children experiencing concerns in the education system. (This includes children who have 1 Black parent)

F **Free** - Education is a human right and an equitable education is guaranteed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We will never charge you for our support and services

E **Enable** finding the right support, unpacking of anti-Black racism and help dealing with school administration, teachers and board staff for parents of Black children.

HOW TO CONTACT

- ✔ Visit the website- all parents regardless of how they are referred (i.e community partner, social media, friend etc), must fill out the intake form.
<https://parentsofblackchildren.org/systems-navigator/>
- ✔ Community partners, including schools with questions can contact:
advocacy@parentsofblackchildren.org
- ✔ We commit to responding to all queries within 3 business days



WHO CAN CONTACT or PROVIDE REFERRALS?



PARENTS

Parents can self-refer by visiting the website and completing the intake form



SCHOOLS

Educators can refer parents

Benefits include culturally responsive supports /relevant advice and step by step guidance for parents



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

All community partners, including B3 Orgs, CAS, Police, Community Health Centres etc. can refer to the system navigator



WHEN SHOULD YOU CONTACT US? THINK **SAFE**

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WHAT WILL WE DO?

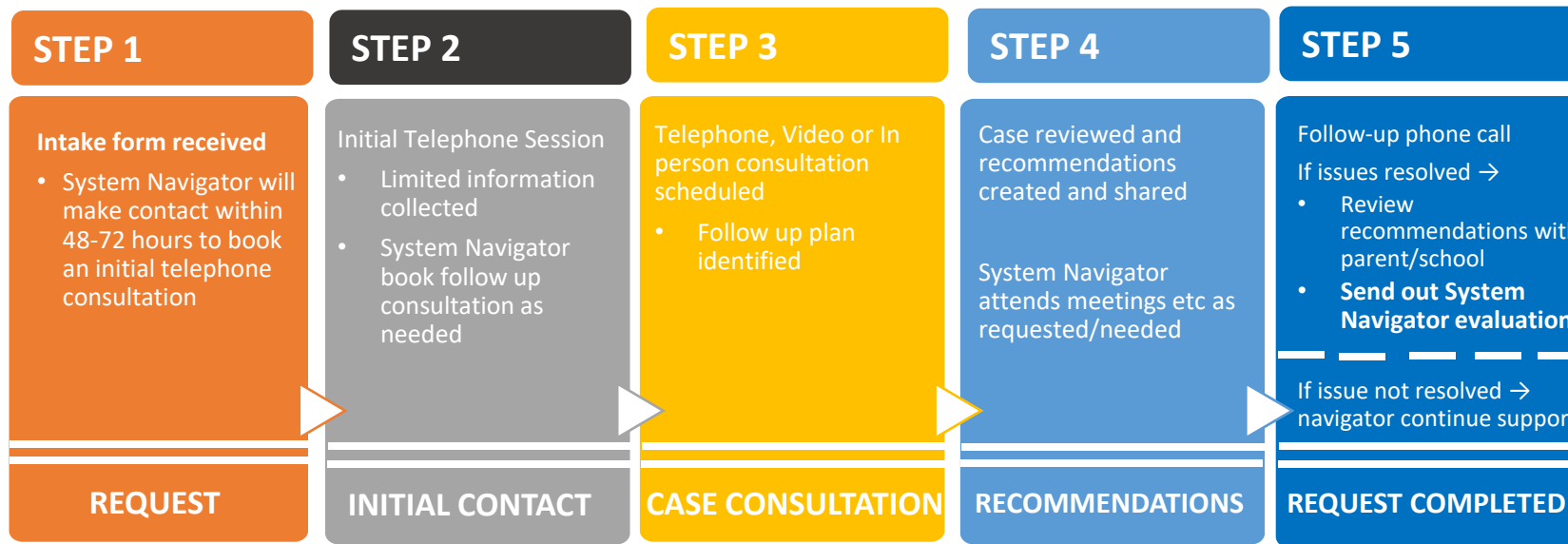
- Gather limited information (Consents for identifying info may be needed)
 - A. Name of school
 - B. Issue/Reason for call and concerns
 - C. Contact information
- **We will support and stand beside you, so no parent of a Black child is facing the education system alone.**



OUR PROCESS

Data points:

1. Intake form at beginning
2. Assessment at conclusion of support



HOW ELSE WILL OUR NAVIGATORS SUPPORT FAMILIES?



WE WILL REPORT....

ALL HATE CRIME AND HATE INCIDENTS

Including those perpetrated by school administrators and staff

QUESTIONS?

Questions about the System Navigator?
advocacy@parentsofblackchildren.org

Questions about the UP Project?
Info@parentsofblackchildren.org

