

10 Year Report

10 YEARS OF IMPACT



Abriendo Puertas
Opening Doors



**BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE
THROUGH PARENT LEADERSHIP**

**DESARROLLANDO UN FUTURO MEJOR
A TRAVÉS DEL LIDERAZGO DE LOS
PADRES**

Ten years ago Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors was founded to honor and support parents.

As the first evidence-based parent training program developed by and for Latino parents with children ages 0-5, Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors (referred to throughout as Abriendo Puertas) has served over 80,000 families across 38 states. This reach is only possible because the program is delivered in partnership with family-serving organizations, parents and their communities.

Abriendo Puertas parent program develops a broad array of parent leadership at home and in schools, extending to community-level advocacy on behalf of children and families. The program has provided the space for communities of families across the nation to show strength and stand up for their rights and the future of their children. Using Paulo Freire's popular education approaches (i.e. education of the people), parents share their struggles, victories, hopes and goals as they develop into the best first teachers of their children.

The impact for parents is inspiring. I'm reminded of Maria, a mother who wrote me a handwritten letter to thank us for the opportunities that Abriendo Puertas opened up for her and her young child. She explained that after being in the U.S. for six years, many of the preschool and educational systems were still foreign to her. Our program helped her understand how to be a prepared mother and advocate for her children. Stories like Maria's are regularly shared by our family-serving partner organizations across the U.S., all involved in supporting as many parents as possible.

I'm excited to announce we will release a new edition of the parent program in early 2018: *Abriendo Puertas for Families, 3rd Edition*.

Our *3rd Edition* incorporates ideas received from parents and partners to make the program even stronger, and engage families more deeply. It includes new activities and lessons for parents to navigate STEM opportunities for their children, promote positive uses of technology and advocate strategically in their local communities.

With the 3rd Edition, our goal is to grow our network of partner organizations, see the program reach into new communities and help more families secure all the opportunities their children deserve. Ten years into our organization, we find ourselves in one of the most challenging and hostile environments for the people we are seeking to support. We remain committed to supporting our partners, longstanding and new, to effectively use the program to meet their goals, and to measure and share their impact.

Mil gracias for the thoughtfulness and hard work of those involved in opening doors to opportunity.

Sandra Gutierrez

Founding Executive Director



THE MISSION of Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors is to honor and support parents in their roles as family leader, and as their child's first and most influential teacher in a home that is their child's first school.



Los Angeles Unified School District - Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors parent graduation in Los Angeles, CA

VALUES FIRST

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors is the nation's first evidence-based comprehensive parent program developed by and for Latino parents with children from newborn to age five. The program's two-generation approach builds parent leadership skills and knowledge to promote family wellbeing, and positive health and educational outcomes for children. By listening first to family experiences and building empathy, parents are respected and viewed as the true experts for what their families need to thrive.

Since the beginning, the Abriendo Puertas program has held true to the core values of:

- **Listen first**
- **Honor family experiences, history and knowledge**
- **Leadership starts at home with parents**
- **We are all learners, all teachers**
- **Invest in parents and families and they will lead the way**

The Abriendo Puertas program was developed by listening to what Latino parents wanted in a comprehensive curriculum. Through listening and a shared design process, plus ongoing customization to meet the needs of parents, the program has succeeded in meeting families where they are, while creating opportunities for visioning and growth.

Understanding that the first five years of children's lives are crucial for lifelong learning and social and cognitive development, Abriendo Puertas helps families build the knowledge and skills to be their children's best first teachers and home as their first school.

After 10 years, the Abriendo Puertas parent program has served over 80,000 families, impacting over 178,000 children.



Woodlake Unified School District - Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors parent graduation in Woodlake, CA

THE POWER OF POPULAR EDUCATION

As leaders of their families, parents are in unparalleled and powerful positions. The Abriendo Puertas program creates a welcoming environment for parents to learn using Paulo Freire’s “popular education” approach¹. Abriendo Puertas facilitators help parents understand their powerful roles in the development and long-term impact of their children’s health and education.

Topics and materials reflect the culture and everyday realities of families. Fun, interactive sessions draw from real-life experiences and incorporate data about local schools and communities. Instead of just disseminating information, “popular education” is rooted in social transformation through shared experiences, struggles and hopes. **Parents support each other in making what they learn in Abriendo Puertas their own—part of their daily family life, part of their community culture. That’s the power of popular education.**



“[Abriendo Puertas] is an evidence-based transformative two-generation program that has changed the lives of thousands of families across the country employing a popular education model.”

Dr. Octavio Pescador, UCLA Paulo Freire Institute

Partner organizations report that over 1,000 Abriendo Puertas parent program graduates are now facilitating other Abriendo Puertas parent groups in their local communities.

¹Paulo Freire was a Brazilian educator and philosopher that was most known for his influential work around the praxis of reflection and action for oppressed people to develop a critical consciousness of their struggle and liberation. *Teachers as Cultural Workers*, Paulo Freire

BUILDING LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Just as parents taking the program make Abriendo Puertas their own, organizations do as well.

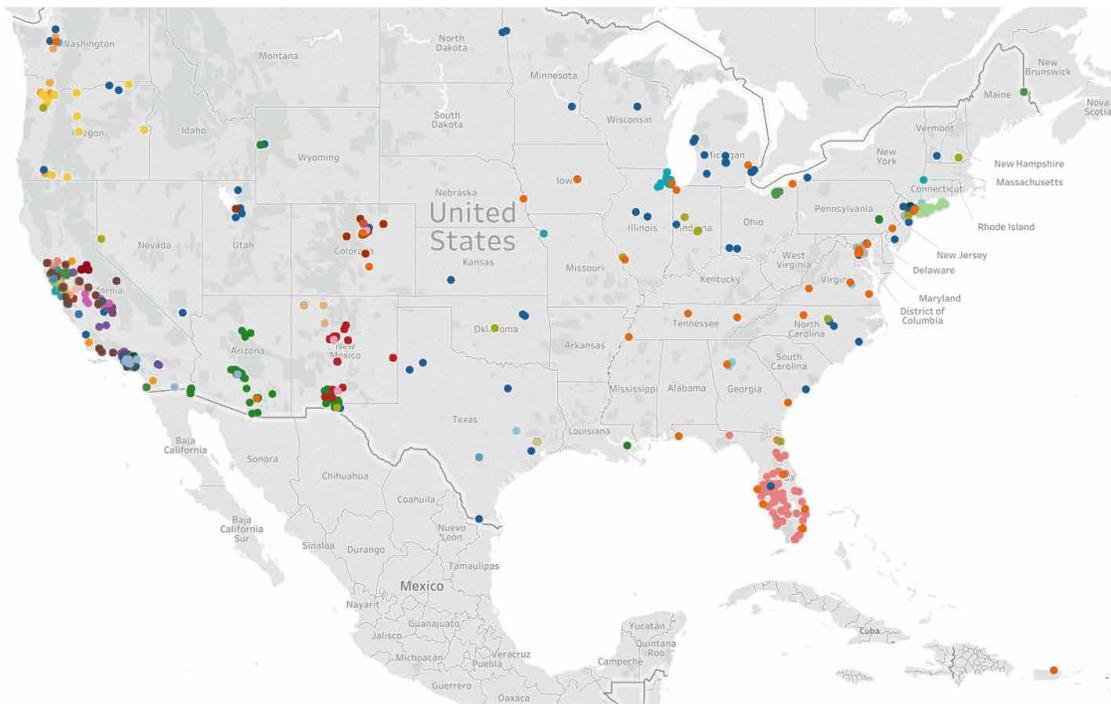
Partner organizations send staff and parent graduates of the Abriendo Puertas program to **Abriendo Puertas Institutes**. There participants work with master trainers and become certified to deliver the program to parents in their local communities. During the 3-day Abriendo Puertas Institutes, participants experience the methodology and materials for each of the program's 10 sessions, and practice "popular education" facilitation skills with coaching from master trainers and input from peers.

Institutes help partner organizations build a parent leadership strength-based approach, improve outreach and positive interactions with families and create a sustainable program that reaches beyond the first parent program delivery. Institutes position organizations to build local leadership capacity for staff and parents.

As rigorous evaluation reports² show that the Abriendo Puertas program provides significant learning and growth for parents, building local leadership allows for dual-generation sustained impact that will produce long-term results for families and communities. **The Abriendo Puertas Institute is a proven, cost-effective model that has exponential impact.**

Over the course of 10 years, more than 1800 facilitators have been certified to deliver the Abriendo Puertas program in over 500 family-serving organizations in over 300 cities across 38 states. Because it's accessible, impactful, sustainable and engaging, Abriendo Puertas is widely used by multicultural groups throughout the U.S. Abriendo Puertas can benefit all parents because it promotes best practices in child development, parent leadership and always includes local data. Abriendo Puertas has been selected by many community groups as their primary family engagement strategy and has been translated into Vietnamese, Mandarin and Somali.

ABRIENDO PUERTAS' NETWORK



²Kristin A. Moore, Selma Caal, Elizabeth K. Lawner, Angela Rojas, and Karen Walker, *Abriendo Puertas/ Opening Doors Parenting Program: Summary Report of Program Implementation and Impacts*, Child Trends Publication, 2014. Margaret Bridges, Shana R. Cohen, and Bruce Fuller, *Abriendo Puertas: Opening Doors to Opportunity A National Evaluation of Second-Generation Trainers*, UC Berkeley Institute of Human Development, 2012.



St. Anne's Center - Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors parent graduation in Los Angeles, CA

ADVOCATING WITH FAMILIES

Abriendo Puertas begins in the home, moves into schools, and leads to advocacy at the community level. Families and communities know what's best for them and the Abriendo Puertas program provides a foundation to bring about change.

For the past 10 years, parent leaders, program facilitators and partner organizations have built a network of dedicated and prepared families to advocate in the best interest of their children and communities. Whether it's through local trainings, national capacity building, or partnerships across organizations, Abriendo Puertas is stepping up with parents to advocate and lead in communities. This year, with multiple attacks on the rights and protections of immigrant families, Abriendo Puertas felt compelled to use its platform to reach out and share valuable information with thousands of parents. Abriendo Puertas wanted to educate families about their rights and how to protect loved ones who are vulnerable to discrimination or at risk for deportation.

To assist parents in advocacy efforts, Abriendo Puertas has produced and distributed nationally a **Know Your Rights video and list of resources for immigrant families** to understand their constitutional rights and connect with available resources (<http://www.ap-od.org/immigration-know-your-rights>). These tools not only increase awareness of individual rights, but also assist parents to advocate for institutional practices and systems that ensure all families can succeed in an environment that contributes to their advancement.

Additionally, Abriendo Puertas is a founding member of the national United Parents Leadership Action Network (www.unitedparentleaders.org), a parent-led network working nationwide on advocacy, policies and systemic change.

For the past 10 years, Abriendo Puertas' national network has responded to challenges and distributed important advocacy resources to parent leaders across the country.



Partnership for Community Action - Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors parent graduation in Albuquerque, NM

WHAT FIELD EXPERTS SAY



“Abriendo Puertas has supported parents of young children to claim their voice as their children’s first teachers. It has also empowered them to come out of the shadows and advocate for their children’s education.”

Arlae Alston, Organization Puente de la Costa Sur



96% of parents reported confidence across language and literacy, school preparation, and advocacy compared to 45% before participating in the [10-session parent program].

UC Berkeley: Bridges, Cohen, Fuller, 2012 (<http://ap-od.org/apdocs/apne.pdf>)

The Abriendo Puertas parent program enhances parents’ behaviors and knowledge base in the areas of:

- **Parent educational activities at home**, such as reviewing the letters of the alphabet and reading to their child more frequently.
- **Parent role modeling**, such as being more mindful of how their behavior sets an example for their children.
- **Approaches to reading with the child**, such as stopping from time to time to talk about the story with the child and reading with an expressive and enthusiastic voice.
- **Knowledge about aspects of child care quality**, such as the importance of child care providers reading to children every day, teaching children how to play with others, and providing healthy snacks.
- **Family goal setting**, such as developing plans to reach family goals for their children and taking time to respond to children’s behavior.
- **Library use**, such as going to the library and checking out children’s materials to take home.

Child Trends: Random Control Trial 2014 (<http://ap-od.org/apdocs/apexec.pdf>)

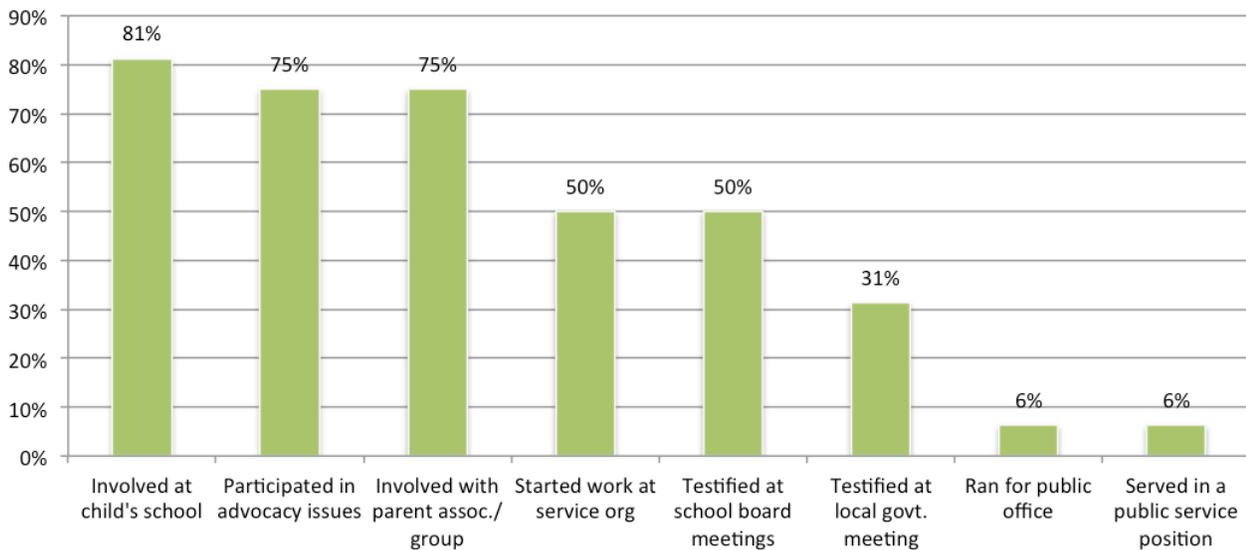


When parents were asked about their rights in advocating for their children including within the public education system, **92% of Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors participants stated they knew their rights** after participating in the 10-week program compared to 31% before participation. *UC Berkeley: Bridges, Cohen, Fuller, 2012 (<http://ap-od.org/apdocs/apne.pdf>)*

Partner organizations report that families have engaged in leadership and advocacy within their local communities, as follows:

- Involvement at their children’s schools
- Involvement in a school parent association or group
- Testified at school board meetings
- Testified at local city, county or state government meetings
- Ran for public offices
- Gained employment at a non-profit organization, school or other social services organization
- Participated on an advocacy issue campaign such as increasing early childhood funding, immigrant friendly policies, or improving public school curriculum
- Served in public service positions

PERCENT OF ORGANIZATIONS REPORTING TYPES OF LEADERSHIP/ ADVOCACY ROLES AS A RESULT OF ABRIENDO PUERTAS



National Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors 10-Year Anniversary Survey, Pedroza 2017

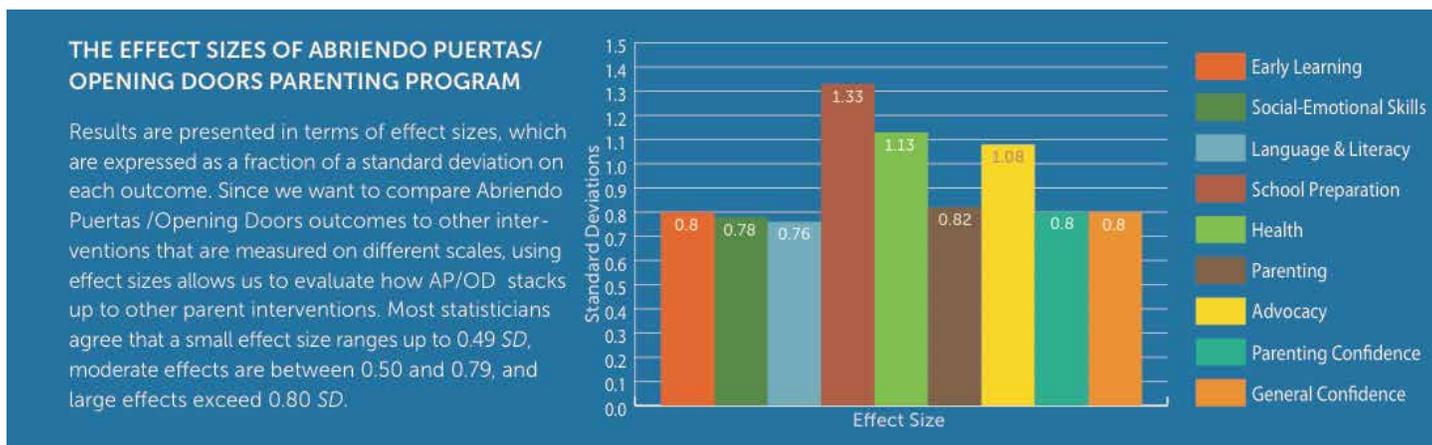
Abriendo Puertas parent graduates are moving into leadership roles as volunteers, staff and coalition members of organizations throughout the U.S.



“Not only has the program impacted our parents and children, but furthermore it has touched many educators and school leaders by coming together with a common mission in providing a high quality parent education program. Specifically, the [Abriendo Puertas] program has built our capacity to draw connections between community agencies, schools, child development programs and libraries.”

Eliza Gomez, Monterey County Office of Education

Compared to other parent interventions, the Abriendo Puertas program ranks as having a large outcome effect, particularly in school preparation, health, advocacy, parenting, early learning, parent confidence and general confidence.



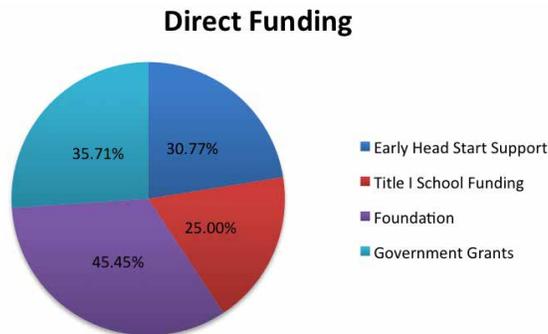
This chart shows the effect sizes of the Abriendo Puertas parent program. *“Results are presented in terms of effect sizes, which are expressed as a fraction of a standard deviation on each outcome. Since we want to compare Abriendo Puertas outcomes to other interventions that are measured on different scales, using effect sizes allows us to evaluate how Abriendo Puertas stacks up to other parent interventions. Most statisticians agree that a small effect size ranges up to 0.49 SD, moderate effects are between 0.50 and 0.79, and large effects exceed 0.80 SD.”*

UC Berkeley: Bridges, Cohen, Fuller, 2012 (<http://ap-od.org/apdocs/apne.pdf>)



Abriendo Puertas’ parent program and national training institutes run on a lean budget, but local communities leverage millions of dollars to bring the program home to families and children.

Partner organizations have secured resources from Title I, Head Start programs, private foundations and government grants to deliver Abriendo Puertas in communities across the U.S., impacting an estimated 178,000 children.





Mother and daughter – Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors parent graduation

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED ABOUT WHAT WORKS

In these past 10 years, we have learned much about the power and impact that a network of partner organizations and parents can have on the lives of Latino families across the U.S. The reach of Abriendo Puertas proves that when we honor and invest in the leadership of parents—and build around their existing strengths—they will lead the way.

Abriendo Puertas offers the evidence-based curriculum at the heart of the parent program as well as training for facilitators, technical support, materials and learning aids, and ongoing partnership to local programs. Here are some best practices we've seen across the country as local facilitators deliver the Abriendo Puertas parent program:

- Listen first
- Always create a safe and welcoming environment for parents to share and reflect.
- Encourage and support advocacy. Parents, as leaders of their family, become their children's best first teacher's, and will also want to find ways to improve conditions for all children.
- Engage parents as experts, equal partners and leaders in co-creating programs and policies.
- The “popular education” approach works. Allow for conversations and sharing as opposed to lectures.
- Train and invest in parent facilitators that have been impacted by the program. This helps build a leadership pipeline in local communities and provides opportunities to impact more families.
- Connect the program to other local and national leadership opportunities, advocacy efforts and resources. The Abriendo Puertas program works best when deep partnerships and networks exist.
- Connect parents to local services as needed.
- Secure investment and resources from local school districts, institutions and early education providers. Their partnership and investment will help sustain the program over the long term.



Lennox School District – Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors parent graduation in Lennox, CA



“Abriendo Puertas has the power to transform the lives of families and we have witnessed this in New Mexico. The curriculum not only helps families gain knowledge around early childhood development, but it is also a tool for organizing and developing leaders in our communities.”

Adrián A. Pedroza, Director of Social Enterprise Partnership for Community Action
 See an interview with Adrián here: <https://vimeo.com/85117140>

NUESTRO FUTURO / OUR FUTURE

Over the next 10 years, Abriendo Puertas intends to build upon “what works” to reach families in all 50 states. We will do this by continuing our investments in training for local communities (Abriendo Puertas Institutes) and providing affordable access to the Abriendo Puertas parent program curriculum, as well as its future upgrades and editions.

2018 will be an important year for the Abriendo Puertas organization as we:

- Begin implementation of a new three-year strategic business plan
- Launch **Abriendo Puertas for Families, 3rd Edition**
- Begin an initiative to bring new partner organizations—from states and communities not yet involved—into the network with the *3rd Edition*
- Integrate a new position to our leadership team to anchor this initiative and strengthen our infrastructure: The Director of Strategic Partnerships

What’s new in *Abriendo Puertas for Families, 3rd Edition*:

- A session designed to help parents introduce and incorporate basic math concepts such as sequence, shapes, size, order, numbers, and counting games into their children's daily life.
- A session on the transition to kindergarten helps

parents navigate the connections from Early Head Start to Head Start, and transitional kindergarten to kindergarten.

- A session on the positive use of technology helps parents understand technology’s best uses. Abriendo Puertas collaborated with Common Sense Media and the Joan Ganz Cooney Center to develop the Apps en Familia written guide (<http://ap-od.org/apps-en-familia>). The guide helps families select and use technology for learning.

Four new bilingual short videos are included:

- Count With Me
- Transition to Kindergarten
- Parent Power
- Small Children: Big Feelings

- The Vroom app(<http://www.vroom.org>) is integrated into the *3rd Edition*. Vroom turns shared moments into brain building moments. Whether it's mealtime, bathtime, or anytime in between, there are always ways to nurture our children's growing minds. Vroom was born out of a need for creative tools and materials that inspire families to turn everyday moments into brain building moments. It was developed with thoughtful input from parents, early childhood experts, neuroscientists, parents and community leaders.
- A new survey tool that enables partner organizations to monitor and evaluate Abriendo Puertas' impact on the parents in their programs, and share top level results.

By 2020, our goals are to:

- Successfully prepare 100,000 parents to actively engage in supporting their children's success in school while advocating for their needs with confidence
- Initiate the expansion of the Abriendo Puertas curriculum to address the needs of children from 0-8 years old
- Build a strong and sustainable organization with sufficient resources and systems to support the work of Abriendo Puertas' national network

Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I will remember. Involve me and I will make it mine.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT:

- ❖ Anonymous Donor
- ❖ A. L Mailman Family Foundation
- ❖ Aspen Institute Ascend Fund
- ❖ Bezos Family Foundation
- ❖ Boeing Company
- ❖ California Community Foundation
- ❖ California Endowment
- ❖ David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- ❖ Doll Family Foundation
- ❖ First 5 Los Angeles
- ❖ First 5 San Francisco
- ❖ First 5 Santa Clara
- ❖ Hagedorn Foundation
- ❖ Heising-Simons Foundation
- ❖ J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation
- ❖ New Profit Proximity Fund
- ❖ Richard W. Goldman Family Foundation
- ❖ The James Irvine Foundation
- ❖ The George Gund Foundation
- ❖ United Way Worldwide
- ❖ Vernon Community Fund
- ❖ Viking Global Foundation
- ❖ W. K. Kellogg Foundation

PARTIAL LIST OF NATIONAL PARTNERS:

- ❖ Attendance Works
 - ❖ Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
 - ❖ CARECEN San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
 - ❖ Catholic Charities USA
 - ❖ Centro Hispano Daniel Torres, Inc.
 - ❖ Chicanos Por La Causa
 - ❖ Child Care Aware (formerly National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies)
 - ❖ Child Trends
 - ❖ Children's Institute, Inc./Project ABC and For The Child
 - ❖ Community Enterprise
 - ❖ East Coast Migrant Head Start Project
 - ❖ Family Paths
 - ❖ First Book
 - ❖ First 5 Fresno County
 - ❖ First 5 Monterey County
 - ❖ Fowler Unified School District
 - ❖ Friends of the Family
 - ❖ Fresno Unified School District
 - ❖ Homeless Prenatal Program
 - ❖ Latino Policy Forum
 - ❖ Logan Square Neighborhood Association
- continued on next page*



First 5 San Francisco – Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors Training Institute in San Francisco, CA

NATIONAL PARTNERS CONT'D:

- ❖ Los Angeles County Office of Education Head Start
- ❖ Los Angeles Unified School District
- ❖ Merced County Office of Education
- ❖ Migrant Education Program, Region 16 - Monterey County Office of Education
- ❖ Mission Neighborhood Centers Head Start
- ❖ Motivation, Education, and Training, Inc.
- ❖ National Head Start Association
- ❖ New Destiny Family Success Centers
- ❖ Oregon Child Development Coalition
- ❖ Puente Pescadero
- ❖ Partnership for Community Action
- ❖ Providence Health & Services, Southern California
- ❖ Redlands Christian Migrant Association
- ❖ Region 9 Head Start Association
- ❖ Santa Clara County Office of Education
- ❖ SEPA Mujer
- ❖ St. Anne's Los Angeles
- ❖ Southern Oregon Head Start
- ❖ Too Small to Fail
- ❖ United Way of Central Jersey
- ❖ University of Washington
- ❖ Via Esperanza Family Resource Center

RECOGNITIONS:

- ❖ 2017 Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Champion
- ❖ 2017 New Profit Proximity Accelerator
- ❖ 2016 Champion of Children's Wellbeing by Ashoka Changemakers and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- ❖ 2015 White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics Commitment to Action Recognition
- ❖ 2015 White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics "Bright Spot"
- ❖ 2015 James Irvine Leadership Award
- ❖ 2014 White House Cesar E. Chavez Champion of Change Award
- ❖ 2012 Californians for the Support of Early Education's Champions for Children Award
- ❖ Abriendo Puertas is a member of the Aspen Institute's Ascend Network and ThinkXchange
- ❖ Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Bright Spot Program

VIDEO RESOURCES:

- ❖ Partnership for Community Action New Mexico Abriendo Puertas video <https://vimeo.com/85117140>
- ❖ First 5 Santa Clara County Abriendo Puertas video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOisOne5CI4>

NATIONAL ABRIENDO PUERTAS/OPENING DOORS STAFF

Sandra Gutierrez, Founder and National Director

(213) 346-3284

sgutierrez@ap-od.org

Debbie Ignacio, National Program and Operations Manager

(213) 346-3216

dignacio@ap-od.org

Magdalena Benitez, Los Angeles County Implementation Project

(213) 346-3228

mabenitez@ap-od.org

Daisy Castañeda, Project Coordinator

(213) 346-3250

dcastaneda@ap-od.org

From left to right: Sandra Gutierrez, Carolina Ramirez, Silvia Esqueda, Daisy Castañeda, Magdalena Benitez and Debbie Ignacio



NATIONAL ABRIENDO PUERTAS/OPENING DOORS TRAINING TEAM

Silvia Esqueda
Luis Hernandez
Carolina Ramirez



NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Jeanette Betancourt, Senior Vice President, Outreach and Educational Practices

Sesame Workshop

Hedy Chang, Director

Attendance Works

Sandra Figueroa-Villa, Executive Director

El Centro Del Pueblo

Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, Deputy Chief of Policy

Child Care Aware of America

Dr. Eugene Garcia, Research Professor

National Hispanic University

Dr. Yolanda Garcia, Dean Child Development and Teacher Education

Sonoma County College District

Dr. Ed Greene, Senior Director

Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network, Inc.

Adrián Pedroza, Director of Social Enterprise

Partnership for Community Action

Dr. Octavio Pescador, Founding Research Associate

UCLA Paulo Freire Institute

Sylvia Puente, Executive Director

Latino Policy Forum

Dr. Luis Reyes, Assistant Dean

New Mexico State University

Helen Sanchez, President

Arevalo Sanchez, Inc.

Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director

National Head Start Association (NHSA)

Dr. Valora Washington, President/CEO

Council on Professional Recognition

Dr. Marlene Zepeda, Professor, College of Health and Human Services

California State University Los Angeles

Mil gracias to all our supporters and partners that have made the last 10 years possible!

www.ap-od.org





Abriendo Puertas
Opening Doors

Desarrollando un Futuro Mejor
a través del Liderazgo de los Padres
Building a Better Future
Through Parent Leadership

www.ap-od.org

