



## What is a QPI Champion?

The Youth Law Center's Quality Parenting Initiative is an effort to transform foster care agencies into relationship-based systems whose primary goal is to ensure that each child develops and maintains strong, positive relationships and has effective parenting while in care.

**“QPI Champions” are internal advocates** who have been trained in QPI values, theory, and techniques. These champions, including agency staff, foster and kinship parents, birth parents, and youth, form a strong team and work together to disseminate QPI in their local communities.

## What does a QPI Champion do?

- Ensure that the agency is following the principles and methods of QPI by prioritizing excellent parenting.
- Explain QPI publicly and communicate the vision to all stakeholders.
- Develop an action plan that includes at least three new practices or policies.
- Build a steering committee and workgroups to advance the action plan.
- Involve birth, foster, and kinship parents and youth in decision-making in a culturally competent manner.
- Engage with the QPI network by participating in sharing opportunities, such as monthly practice exchanges, conference workshops, and one-on-one meetings.
- After the first year, aid in mentoring and developing another site.

## What is the time commitment?

- Champions undergo a 6-month training on QPI values, theory, and techniques, which includes:
  - One monthly 3-hour group training;
  - One monthly 90-minute group discussion;
  - One monthly 45-minute individual or small group coaching session;
  - Homework to prepare for coaching, which typically takes 30 minutes to 1 hour.
- Trained QPI Champions should be prepared to dedicate time to QPI work, including steering committee meetings, stakeholder education, advocacy, activities that assess progress, and network-wide practice exchanges.
- Champions are also expected to attend a two-hour quarterly national meeting and a three-day annual conference.

## What makes a good QPI Champion?

- Core values that place the child's experience at the center of practice.
- Credibility and respect among peers/stakeholders in the community.
- Systems-level thinking and a desire to make systemic change.
- Sufficient time to prioritize QPI (which requires leadership support for staff).
- Openness to trying new things and learning from mistakes.