

The Children's Agenda

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February e-update 2016

Dear Advocate,

Here's the latest news and items of interest from The Children's Agenda. We also invite you to visit [our website](#) and let us know how we're doing. We'd love to hear from you!

Review of the 2016-17 State Budget

The Children's Agenda released its [6th annual review of the New York State Executive Budget](#) and its impact on our community's children and youth. We affirm the progress made over the past year in bringing together Rochester-area residents and leaders to confront the crisis of child poverty. The Governor and State leadership's support, along with that of Assembly Majority Leader Joe Morelle and the [United Way of Greater Rochester](#), has been critical to these endeavors. The [Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative \(RMAPI\)](#), [ROC the Future](#) and other collaborative efforts have been successful in focusing attention on "what's needed most and works best" for children and youth in Monroe County.

The Children's Agenda proposed the following five recommendations:

1. Invest an additional \$190M for child care subsidies.
2. Allocate \$2M annually for five years to Monroe County to expand evidence-based home visiting programs, with a required 2-to-1 match of public/private funds (\$1 of private funding for every \$2 of public funding). In addition, allocate \$5M to expand NFP in other areas of the state.
3. Pass [Paid Family Leave Insurance](#) legislation that uses the Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) system to support all workers during times of family crises.
4. Expand access to quality [out-of-school time care](#) by increasing funding for the Advantage After-School Program to \$62.9M.
5. Pass ["Raise the Age"](#) legislation with sufficient funding to provide for appropriate facilities, programs and services for 16- and 17-year old youth being moved out of the adult criminal justice system.



Upcoming Events

[Raise the Age Lobby Day](#)

Tuesday, March 8

[FAFSA \(Free Application for Federal Student Aid\) Fest](#)

Wednesday, March 9 -

Thursday, March 24

[The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation documentary series](#)

(see below for local event details)

Monday, April 4

In the News

[State weighs tax deferral to soften child care costs](#)

News 13WHAM

[NY Assembly passes paid family leave bill](#)

News 13WHAM

[Commission shines light on inadequate mental health resources for children in nine-county region](#)

WXXI News

Funding to scale up these proven strategies is the next step to help lift families and children out of poverty, where one out of every two Rochester children live today. [Access the full report here.](#)

[Panel calls for depression screenings during and after pregnancy](#)

The New York Times

Anti-Poverty: Stage Set for Action

A flurry of promising developments positions the [Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative at the United Way](#) for concrete action toward its goal of reducing poverty by 50% in the next 15 years. The Children's Agenda serves on the Steering Committee, the Policy Team, and the Trauma Resource Team. In the past two months:

- The Finger Lakes region's [Upstate Revitalization proposal](#) won a \$500 million-over-five years award from the state. Key to that proposal's success is a prospective allocation of \$100 million for "pathways to prosperity," which is explicitly informed by the anti-poverty initiative, particularly around workforce development.
- The [IBM Smarter Cities Challenge](#) report came out, reinforcing many of the themes already adopted by the anti-poverty initiative: coordinating services, particularly on a neighborhood basis; measuring success using data to track outcomes with real people, rather than simply program efforts; and engaging residents and people impacted by poverty in meaningful ways.
- Resource Teams on structural racism, trauma, and community building have met and created principles to guide the work.
- In his Executive Budget, the Governor proposed several policy items aimed at immediately reducing poverty, including [paid family leave](#) and a phased-in [increase of the minimum wage](#) to \$15/hour.

From The Children's Agenda's perspective, perhaps most importantly, all of the policy areas developed in last year's Children's Policy Council, led by Assembly Majority Leader Joe Morelle and endorsed by 69 community leaders and institutions, are now incorporated into the Anti-Poverty Initiative's policy work. Drawing specific policy proposals directly from the work completed last summer by the Anti-Poverty Initiative's workgroups in childcare, education, health, etc., the Policy Team recommended and the Steering Committee adopted, among other things, increased funding to expand "licensed, education-based child care options so that parents do not have to make the decision of staying with their children or going to work," and expand and integrate "effective home visitation programs to give kids and moms the best start in life." Other important policy recommendations now on the Anti-Poverty Initiative's plate include expanded afterschool programming, summer learning opportunities, and a career and technical education pathway to a Regents' Diploma.

The community's agenda is set; now it's time to win and deliver for the children and youth of Monroe County, particularly our most vulnerable in poverty, in this year's New York State budget.

Greater Rochester PLTI makes significant strides



Parent leaders of the [Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute \(PLTI\)](#) were excited to welcome Donna Thompson Bennet and Gina LeVon Simpson to Rochester earlier this month. Donna and Gina, who flew in from the national PLTI office, shared Rochester's latest evaluation. The Greater Rochester PLTI was found to have made significant strides, judging by its impact on actions of civic engagement: The number of community members who attend town council, city council or school board meetings increased by 30%, the number of those who actively engage at such meetings increased by over 40%, and the number of those who contact elected officials to voice their concerns about issues increased by over 50%. Parent leaders also used the opportunity to share and exchange information about 18 community projects underway.

The Raising of America Series

Two local viewings of the first episode in the series, jointly sponsored by GRCC/Faith in Action Network and TCA, each followed by discussion with resources and action steps provided by TCA:

Monday, April 4, 2016
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Incarnate Word Lutheran Church
597 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

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1 S Washington St Suite 400 | Rochester NY 14614 | (585) 256 2620 | thechildrensagenda.org
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