

# The Children's Agenda

Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

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June 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 see our [mid-year appeal](#). With the support and donations of child advocates like you, *The Children's Agenda* is making progress for our community's most vulnerable. Your gift will help us continue our work to reduce the tradeoffs families currently face between successfully raising children and achieving financial security. If you haven't already, please [give](#) to *The Children's Agenda* to add your voice for kids!

## PLTI now recruiting its 5th cohort



[Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute \(PLTI\)](#)

Are you a leader for children? Are you looking to learn more of the knowledge and techniques necessary to make change for kids in our community—or do you know someone who is? Learn more at our information session on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 5:30 PM, Central Library, 115 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604. Dinner and child care will be provided. RSVP to Carolyn at [GreaterRochesterPLTI@gmail.com](mailto:GreaterRochesterPLTI@gmail.com).

*PLTI enables parents to become leading advocates for children. Parents opinions are often unheard. They lack advocacy skills, but not the motivation and will to change their children's lives. PLTI teaches parents who wish to improve the lifelong health, safety and learning of children, how to become practiced change agents for the next generation.*



## Upcoming Events

[Children's Interfaith Weekend Orientation](#)  
Thursday, August 4

[Parent Leadership Training Institute \(PLTI\) Information Session](#)  
Tuesday, August 9

HOLD: Greater Rochester Child Care Professional Development event  
Tuesday, August 9

**Help us promote Summer Meals**



**All City of Rochester residents, ages 18 and under, are eligible to receive free breakfast, lunch, or snacks at select locations throughout the city. Sites include community agencies, schools, churches, and R-Centers. No paperwork is required. Call 2-1-1 or visit [summermealsroc.org](http://summermealsroc.org) to find the Summer Meals location nearest you.**

## TCA releases its city budget analysis

The Children's Agenda just released its Analysis of the City of Rochester's 2016-17 Adopted Budget. Our sole concern is how the budget impacts Rochester's youngest residents. Are City dollars supporting effective programs and strategies that will help lift children out of poverty, or that lessen poverty's negative impact on children? Our findings include:

1. The "Children and Families Funding" section of the proposed budget document details City spending that benefits children, including a notable "Why This Is Important" description of each program, and is built on the [ROC the Future](#) framework.
2. The City is investing in DRYS staff through increased youth development positions and upgrades of existing positions. Enriched summer and after-school programs continue. City funds are used to maintain youth employment services that were cut from the State budget.
3. The City is pursuing a commendable data-sharing arrangement among the Public Library, the Department of Recreation & Youth Services (DRYS), and the Rochester City School District (RCSD). Once achieved, this collaboration will improve all 3 institutions' ability to serve children and youth more effectively.
4. In addition to actively participating in leadership of the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI), the City has integrated its own anti-poverty efforts through the Mayor's Office, the Office of Innovation, DRYS, the Library, the [Pathways to Prosperity survey](#) conducted in 2016 in the RMAPI pilot neighborhoods, and the Capital Improvement Plan.
5. An independent evaluation of an important component of DRYS teen pregnancy prevention programs, the Teen Outreach Program (TOP) found that the program was implemented with fidelity and facilitation was high quality, but inconsistent attendance led to inconclusive evaluation results. The federal government has awarded the City a second 5-year grant for teen pregnancy prevention, and staff has chosen to implement new evidence-based program models.

## In the News

[The Children's Agenda reviews Rochester budget](#)

TWC News

[A proposal for more diverse local schools](#)

WXXI Connections with Evan Dawson

[More children in Monroe County considered 'lead poisoned'](#)

WXXI News

[We cannot give-up on our children](#)

Democrat & Chronicle

Read our [Initial Analysis](#) or [Full Report](#).

## TCA staff named to Governor's Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council



The Children's Agenda is pleased and excited to announce that our Founding Director and Senior Advisor, Dr. Jeff Kaczorowski, was recently named to the [Governor's Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council \(FLREDC\)](#) Pathways to Prosperity Team. This team will focus on reducing poverty through workforce development, mentoring, and early childhood supports. We applaud Jeff for his tireless efforts to improve the health of children in our community.



Also, Jackie Campbell, ROC the Future Alliance Director, was named to the FLREDC New York State Mentoring Workgroup. This team will focus on matching vulnerable and disadvantaged students with volunteers from businesses and enterprises for one-to-one mentoring in an effort to reduce poverty and guide children toward successful opportunities. We commend Jackie for her dedication and commitment to the well-being and uplift of children, especially the most vulnerable.

## \$4M in federal funds for child care

On June 14, Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand announced \$4 million in federal funds for Rochester Rehabilitation Center so that parents will have access to affordable, quality child care while enrolled in higher education or job training programs. "Rochester Rehabilitation Center is a great asset to the region that opens the door to parents who might otherwise be unable to pursue their dreams and compete in the workforce without this critical child care service," said Schumer. This news is especially important to the [Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative at United Way \(RMAPI\)](#), which has played a significant role in the push to bridge the gap between local workforce development and child care systems. We extend our utmost gratitude to both parties for their advocacy efforts on behalf of working families and children.

## Like what we do? Like us on Facebook

During the month of June, The Children's Agenda participated in the City of Rochester's annual Juneteenth Celebration, Clergy on Patrol, and RMAPI's Faith Leaders Walk. For highlights and photos, "Like" us on [Facebook](#) or "Follow" us on [Twitter](#).



## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

The Children's Agenda does not accept any government funding, and none of our work is possible without the generous support of private individuals, foundations, businesses and others. Our sincerest thanks go out to the following for their donations since our last update:

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