

TheChildren'sAgenda

Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

[About Us](#) [Donate](#) [Advocate](#)

July e-update 2017



Dear Advocate,

Here's the latest news and items of interest from The Children's Agenda. We also invite you to let us know how we're doing. We'd love to hear from you at info@thechildrensagenda.org.

URI Funding a Huge Victory for Kids



The [Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative \(RMAPI\)](#) has secured \$4.75M in two-year funding from the [NYS Upstate Revitalization Initiative](#) for expansion of early childhood supports with existing programs in the [focus neighborhoods](#). The funding will cover an additional 115 parents and children in the trilogy of evidence-based [home visitation programs](#), an additional 300-400 children in early learning summer programs, and 300 additional child care slots for children of low-income working families. The Children's Agenda, along with [Children's Institute](#), [United Way](#), [Vinnie Esposito \(NYS Economic Development\)](#), and [Joe Wesley \(Wegmans\)](#) have worked hard to make this happen, beginning in winter 2016 when RMAPI tapped The Children's Agenda and Children's Institute to draft the first proposal. This is a huge victory for kids! The Children's Agenda is deeply grateful to Governor Cuomo, the [Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development](#)



Upcoming Events

[Monroe County Fair](#)

Friday, August 4 - Saturday, August 5

[Park Ave Festival Kids Park](#)

Saturday, August 5 - Sunday, August 6

[Afrikan American Festival](#)

Sunday, August 6

[Attendance Blitz Kick Off](#)

Thursday, August 24



In the News

[Local Non Profit Prepared to Dig Deep on Rochester City School District](#)

News 10 WHEC

Council and RMAPI for investing in these smart, proven supports for children.

Medicaid's 'First 1,000 Days'



On July 20th, New York Medicaid Director Jason Helgerson announced the launch of a new initiative, First 1,000 Days on Medicaid, to improve services and outcomes for kids. Due to social and economic factors, approximately 40% of NY children are developmentally behind when they begin school. The early years are crucial because 85% percent of brain development occurs within the first 3 years of life. Fifty-nine percent of NY children, ages 0-3 years old, are covered by Medicaid, thus creating a window of opportunity for stakeholders to develop recommendations for a "10-point plan focused on improving outcomes and access to services for children in their first 1,000 days." The Children's Agenda is proud to partner with Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, and we're especially grateful for the contributions of TCA Senior Advisor, Dr. Jeff Kaczorowski, to this work.

How Will Federal Health Care Reform Impact Local Children?

Minority Reporter

Summer Reading Soars Within RCSD

News 8 WROC

Early Childhood Funds a Big Win

Democrat & Chronicle

State Medicaid Tabs Kaczorowski for Child Health Initiative

URMC News

Everyday Trauma Reshapes Rochester Schools' Approach to Teaching & Supervision

Democrat & Chronicle

Promoting Social and Emotional Learning in Preschool

RWJF



Paid Family Leave for All



Governor Cuomo recently revealed next steps for Paid Family Leave, a program which starts on January 1, 2018 and will be phased in over four years. So far, participation in the Paid Family Leave program is mandatory for private employers and employees may have already noticed deductions to their paychecks, beginning earlier this month. However, Paid Leave benefits are voluntary for public employers. The Governor is now working with State unions to ensure that benefits are available to public employees, as well, so that all New Yorkers have access to Paid Family Leave.

Last year, The Children's Agenda's Advocacy Network helped bring Paid Family Leave to New York. When fully implemented, the new benefit will allow family members to take care of each other (including newborns, newly adopted children, as well as chronically ill, sick or dying family members) for up to 12 weeks at two-thirds pay, without risk of losing their jobs. Scientific evidence shows that the length of time parents spend with new children is extremely important to their lifetime success.

Did you know?

July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month.

Announcements



Latonya Johnson, Communications & Development Specialist, celebrates 2 years with The Children's Agenda. Happy Anniversary!

Stay Connected

For additional photos and highlights, Like us on [Facebook](#) and 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:

Scott Adair; Anonymous; Keenan Barry; Brent and Jane Bernard; Children's Institute; Edward and Dianne Cooney Miner; Feinbloom Supporting Foundation; Jon Greenbaum; Louise Johnson-Toth; Joseph and Patricia Murray Kelly; David and Dawn Klein; David and Laura Kopp; Edward Davis and Anne Kress; Leonard and Virginia Lacara; Bernard and Jane Lynch; Andrew MacGowan III; Albert and Jean Mangold; Rochester's Child; Dan and Jay Ross; Richard and Vicki Schwartz; Terry Schwartz; SEFA; Bridget Shumway; Father Laurence Tracy; Laurence and Margot Vanetten.