

The Children's Agenda

Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

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April 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!

Paid Family Leave Victory for New York!



On April 1st, New York State passed the strongest Paid Family Leave program in the nation—a huge victory for families and children! The program, funded by a very small employee payroll deduction with no employer contribution, will begin phasing in 2018. When fully implemented, here's what it means:

[12 Weeks](#) 6.4 million New York workers will be entitled to up to 12 weeks of leave annually, phased in over four years to

TOGETHER, WE WILL
DRIVE LASTING CHANGE

and help all of our
community's children thrive.



Upcoming Events

[Kids Fun Run at College Town](#)

Saturday, April 30

[Every Child Ready to Read!](#)

Saturday, April 30 - Saturday, May 7

[Dr. Fania Davis in Rochester:
The Radical Work of Community Healing
& Dismantling the School to Prison
Pipeline](#)

Wednesday, May 4

[Spring into Summer
Summer Meals Fest](#)

Saturday, May 14

In the News

[New York introduces the best paid family
leave yet](#)

Vocativ

[Here's why it will be harder for states
beyond New York to pass paid family
leave](#)

Slate

[National Council of Jewish Women to
honor Rochester residents](#)

care for a new child or seriously ill loved one, or for certain military family needs.

[2/3 Wages](#) Paid Leave will reach 67% of a person's weekly work wages, up to 67% of the statewide average weekly wage.

[Job Protection](#) Employees will have their job protected while on leave.

[Coverage for All](#) All workers, regardless of business size, are able to take advantage of this new family leave program.

Employees must work for an employer for 6 months before accessing paid leave.

The Children's Agenda and our Interfaith Collaborative have strongly advocated for the passage of the Paid Family Leave program. Local advocates successfully contributed to this legislation passing, with thousands of hand-signed letters to elected officials since last Fall, legislative visits both locally and in Albany, dozens of online constituent messages, and various media stories and public forums. Among its many benefits are the positive social emotional effects it will have on families, particularly mothers and children. It allows parents an opportunity to establish and strengthen bonds with infants just after childbirth or adoption. This week, The Children's Agenda hosted a Paid Family Leave "Birthday Party" to recognize the hard work of all involved including community leaders and elected officials. Speakers included Senator Joseph Robach and New York State Assembly Member Harry Bronson, and attending were representatives from the offices of U.S. Senator Kirstin

Penfield Post

[NYS budget reaction: it moves the needle on poverty](#)

Democrat & Chronicle

[RMAPI, ROC the Future to recruit community advisers](#)

Democrat & Chronicle

[Spencerport Kiwanis provides check to Children's Agenda](#)

Westside News

Gillibrand and NY Senator Rich Funke. Also celebrating with us were partners from Citizen Action NY, League of Women Voters, AAUW, YWCA, NYCLU, Planned Parenthood, 1199 SEIU, and more.

We recently released our [Review of the Enacted 2016-17 New York State Budget](#). Get the full report [here](#).

PLTI Graduation 2016



The [Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute \(PLTI\)](#) held a graduation ceremony for its 4th cohort of parent leaders on April 26. Mayor Lovely Warren attended the event, extending her congratulations to graduates, remarking on how PLTI provides parents with the tools and knowledge to make change in our community. Parents are vital to bringing about change in Rochester and PLTI helps parents get their voices heard. Mayor Warren spoke of a PLTI Alum, Toyin Anderson, and said, "The skills learned in PLTI made Toyin a great advocate for children, which is resulting in a new spray park opening for kids in Rochester this summer." Another key moment Monday night was when a

young CLTI (Children Leadership Training Institute) member, Mehki McKinsey, delivered a celebratory speech—unpracticed and unrehearsed—and blew the audience away. Mehki is the elected leader of his Children's Leadership Group and he serves the position well by his show of confidence and presentation skills. [Follow PLTI on Facebook](#) to access additional photos and to stay informed of key issues and events.

ROC the Future & RMAPI Joint Meeting

On April 6th, [ROC the Future](#) held a joint meeting with the [Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative \(RMAPI\)](#) to share an update on the status of ROC the Future, and to demonstrate the ways in which ROC the Future and RMAPI align. The meeting was well attended with an audience of approximately 40 ROC the Future partners and stakeholders. ROC the Future is an alliance of over 50 leading Rochester-area institutions and community partners that promotes alignment of community resources to improve the academic achievement of Rochester's Children. Alliance Director Jackie Campbell introduced the newest CAN, PECAN (Parent Engagement Collaborative Action Network), which will focus on identifying and measuring strategies or interventions that will increase parents' capacity to successfully support improved child outcomes, as well as to identify and promote principles and best practices for authentic and transformational parent engagement. Additional "update" meetings to share key information across the network are planned for 2016.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

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1 S Washington St Suite 120 | Rochester NY 14614 | (585) 256 2620 | thechildrensagenda.org
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