

TheChildren'sAgenda

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November e-update 2015

Dear Advocate,

As you'll see from this update, The Children's Agenda is accelerating rather than slowing as we approach the holidays and the end of 2015. If you haven't already, please give to The Children's Agenda to add your voice for kids. Tomorrow, don't forget to ROC the Day by joining us as an advocate for our community's future—our children. You can double your impact by sharing your gift with friends and family as an opportunity to make a difference.

2016 Proposed Monroe County Budget

As we do each year, The Children's Agenda is analyzing how funding or policy proposals in government budgets will impact the children and youth of Monroe County. TCA Policy Analyst Brigit Hurley once again heads up our annual analysis of the County Budget, first proposed to the legislature on November 10, 2015 and expected to be adopted 4 weeks later on December 8, 2015.

Some issues of particular concern include the proposal to cut \$120,000 in preventive/protective child care subsidies for families determined by the County to be in crisis. This continues the decline in total number of child care slots available in our County for low-income working families—making for 276 fewer slots next year, the lowest since The Children's Agenda has conducted our analyses. Meanwhile, child abuse and neglect reports continue to rise precipitously; the County projects there will be 8,300 reports next year, 1,288 more than in 2014.

More details will be available when the report is released in the next week. Check out The Children's Agenda's earlier analyses of [County Budgets](#).



Upcoming Events

ROC the Day

Tuesday, December 1



Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI) Community Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, December 3

In the News

Direct cash assistance for the poor?

WXXI Radio

Paid Family Leave forum lobbies for legislation

TWC News

Paid Family Leave advocates propose changes to temporary

Out-of-School Time Program Opportunities for Children & Youth

disability
WXXI News

Youth Risk Behavior Survey
Monroe County Dept Health

Programs for out-of-school time include before and after school, expanded learning time, and summer time. The Children's Agenda recently conducted a survey of 60 after-school providers, thanks to the Rochester Area Community Foundation. Based on our research, we estimate that our community currently has the capacity to serve only 31% of Rochester city children and youth in need with program opportunities. Participation in quality out-of-school time programs leads to increased student success. While the Rochester City School District is a national leader in piloting expanded learning opportunities, and our after-school community is taking steps to improve and consistently measure quality programming, all Rochester youth should have access to high-quality out-of-school time experiences. The Children's Agenda will continue our advocacy for policies and funding to support increasing the number of youth served. Check our [website](#) for full report details.

Local Focus, National Impact



Pictured here (left to right): Allen Williams of City of Rochester, Clifford Johnson of National League of Cities, Carolyn Lee-Davis of The Children's Agenda, Tonja Rucker and Katie Whitehouse of National League of Cities.

Earlier this month, TCA's Policy Director Carolyn Lee-Davis traveled with Mayor Warren's Director of Special Projects Allen Williams to Nashville, TN where Rochester was awarded the National League of Cities' "Visionaries Award" for its work on early childhood issues. For the past 2 years, The Children's Agenda has partnered with the City of Rochester in the [National League of Cities Educational Alignment for Young Children \(EAYC\)](#) project. The project is part of a national effort to increase the likelihood that children will achieve educational success by the end of 3rd grade. City officials are working on alignment efforts on behalf of young children from birth to age 8 that will go beyond the classroom to include strengthening connections

within their communities and linking families to a broad range of supports and opportunities that help them thrive. Mayor Warren has been a strong supporter of early childhood issues, and has created a [3 to 3 Initiative](#) to support young children. With the support of ROC the Future, TCA's Policy Director Carolyn Lee-Davis and Patty Uttaro, Director of the Rochester Public Library and Monroe County Library System, have been co-leads on this project.

Annual Children's Interfaith Weekend

Advocating for increased funding for child care slots as well as paid family leave legislation, some 72 congregations and organizations from every major faith community in Monroe County participated in the 2015 Children's Interfaith Weekend. So far, 4,331 congregants have signed [letters](#), including 2,331 from parishes in the [Catholic](#) diocese focusing on child care. New faith communities involved this year include the Sufi Order of Rochester, [the Rochester chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women](#), Pittsford First Presbyterian, Lutheran Church of Reformation, St. George Episcopal, Incarnation Episcopal, and Greece Baptist. Other partner organizations, such as Roc/ACTS, have previously collected more than 5,400 postcards from voters calling for doubling the number of slots available in Monroe County for child care. A team of clergy and lay leaders will be delivering the letters collected over the weekend in personal meetings with state and local elected officials over the next two months.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

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