

# TheChildren'sAgenda

Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

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October e-update 2016



Dear Advocate,

With less than a month away from Thanksgiving, The Children's Agenda would like to thank you for your continued support and action for children in our community. You strengthen advocacy for smart, effective investments and the systemic changes that will lead to more lasting impacts for our children.

*Your gift to The Children's Agenda makes a tremendous difference!*

As the community kicks off its season of giving, we invite you to consider a gift to The Children's Agenda so that we may:

- Continue to raise awareness about the disproportionate education outcomes for children of color
- Ensure that every family has access to high-quality child care
- Raise parents' collective voice and impact on decisions effecting kids

You can give to The Children's Agenda now by visiting our [website](#) or you can [ROC the Day with TCA](#) on #GivingTuesday.

## 4th Annual State of Our Children Address



On October 25th, [ROC the Future](#), a community-wide initiative housed at The Children's Agenda, held its 4th Annual State of Our Children



## Upcoming Events

[Election Day - ROC the Vote!](#)  
Tuesday, November 8

[RCSD Attendance Blitz](#)  
Thursday, November 10

[20th Annual Rochester Children's Book Festival](#)  
Saturday, November 12

[National Family Engagement Day](#)  
Saturday, November 19

[ROC the Day](#)  
Tuesday, November 29

## In the News

[Interfaith community taking action for children](#)  
Democrat & Chronicle

[The poverty numbers](#)  
RBJ

[State of Our Children Address highlights progress, challenges](#)  
RBJ

Address & [Report Card Release](#) to help educate our community about academic and life outcomes for Rochester's children and the disproportionate outcomes for children of color. The sold-out event had as its keynote speaker Ralph Smith, Senior Vice President and Managing Director of [The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) at the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#). In his keynote address, Smith firmly stated that "we have a large and growing number of children who are falling beyond the reach of schools." The [2016 Report Card](#) differed from previous reports by including disaggregated data by race and gender. For example, the 2015 graduation rate for African American male [RCSD](#) students is at 47%, which is very low, yet it is double the rate reported in 2012. Other markers show a slight improvement in 3rd grade reading (from 6.6% in 2015 to 8.2% in 2016), an overall increase in school attendance (with a rate of 32.7% students chronically absent), and a significant increase in the rate of students applying early for college financial aid (the [FAFSA—Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#)—submission rate increased by 17% from March 2015 to March 2016). Ralph Smith applauded ROC the Future's parent engagement efforts and, later that evening, ROC the Future held its first-ever State of Our Children Provider's Forum. More than 30 providers offered insights on parent engagement with leaders of the ROC the Future Network. To learn more about the 2016 academic outcome indicators, download the [2016 State of Our Children Annual Report Card](#).

[Rochester school absences down, says Children's Report Card](#)  
Democrat & Chronicle

[State of Our Children report released](#)  
News 10 WHEC

[Setting students up for success](#)  
Democrat & Chronicle

[State of Our Children report: some progress, but more work to do](#)  
WXXI News

[Report: Fewer chronically absent students in RCSD during 2014-2015 year](#)  
News 13 WHAM

## New York State Child Care Campaign

As you've likely seen in national headlines, child care is now more expensive than college tuition. The Children's Agenda estimates the unmet need for child care subsidies to be as many as 8,300 children per year in Monroe County. TCA Chief Executive Officer Larry Marx and Policy Director Carolyn Lee-Davis recently traveled to New York City to meet with a diverse group of stakeholders to develop a broad, long-term statewide child care strategy. The meeting proved successful and led to a subsequent meeting in Albany with leaders from a variety of children's research and advocacy organizations. We're determinedly advocating for increases in child care subsidies to ensure that every family has access to high-quality child care at an affordable cost.

*Did you know?*

*November is National Family Engagement Month.*

## Stay Connected

For additional highlights and photos, "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; Brighter Days Foundation; Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation; Robert H. Thompson and Bonnie DeVinney; John and Lois Giess; Cornelia and Anthony Labrum, MD; Panorama Pediatric Group; Larry Marx and Deborah Rosen.

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