

Liftoff WNY Network News

Spring 2020

A Word from the Director



As we welcome spring, a season that typically signifies growth, renewal and promise, we do so amid new realities and uncertain times. While we adjust to these developing challenges, it's my hope that you're finding renewed purpose in your role, your organization's work, and in staying healthy and safe.

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has surely summoned all of us to collaboratively assess and resolve our region's urgent needs for young children and their families. Liftoff is proud to be taking an active role in this regard. By connecting with our partners in government, philanthropy, health, and advocacy, we're able to share information in real-time and to provide strategic thought leadership for our alliance members. We're doing so while also remaining focused on our Network's regional priorities and long-term objectives:

- Universal Developmental Screenings for all children leading to Kindergarten readiness;
- Awareness and availability of affordable high-quality child care; and
- Reliable transportation to access early childhood programs and services.

I cannot thank you enough for both your commitment to children and families in the region and your strong support of Liftoff. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or opportunities for greater connection and partnership.

Be well,

Rachel

Rachel Bonsignore

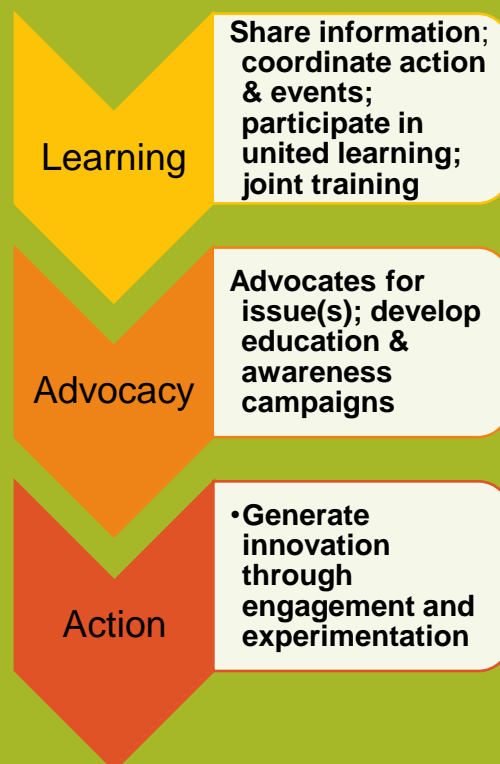
"Aligned Action: A collection of people and their organizations coordinating action around common goals and driving towards shared outcomes to shift systems."

- Anna Muoio, Monitor Institute, [Shifting a system](#)



Liftoff's Shared Purpose: Aligned Learning with Aligned Action

As a result of our workshop at the Roycroft this fall and in-person meetings this winter, Liftoff is pleased to affirm our collective purpose as driven by you, our members:



COVID-19 Early Childhood Resources




NY Funders Alliance: In response to requests from NY Funders Alliance membership, the NY Funders Alliance (Liftoff's fiscal sponsor) has created a summary of resources for early childhood services and policies during COVID-19 as well as a regularly updated [list of funds and rapid-response grants](#) for nonprofits.

- **First Five Years Fund**: An Overview of Child Care Relief Included in the CARES Act
- **Western New York Women's Foundation**: In addition to local and state resources for children and childcare, the Foundation assisted, as members of the Steering Committees of the Empire State Child Care Campaign and Winning Beginnings NY, a [9-point plan for the State to support child care programs and the families of essential workers](#) [click the link for the full recommendations].

Social Media Toolkits (hyperlinked images)


COVID-19 CHILD CARE FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Child Care Resource Network and the Erie County Emergency Child Care Task Force have partnered to match essential workers in need of child care with state-licensed child care providers who remain open and have vacancies for those children.



To begin the matching process and get more information on available resources to help make emergency child care affordable visit:

wnychildren.org/essential-workers




**Big or small,
the Census
is for us all.**

Babies count, too!

2020Census.gov
844-330-2020




Liftoff Learning Series:

Save the Date! Advancing Racial Equity: Racial Equity Impact Analysis Training, June 16th from 8am – Noon. The Racial Equity Impact Analysis Training is intended to help optimize our Network's mission by ensuring that our work can be effective for all communities. As such, the training looks at how current inequities across communities in the WNY region have been created, and how these gaps can be closed. The overarching purpose of this trainings is to strengthen the region so that everyone can thrive. The training supports constructive and mission-centered conversations and analyses. [The trainers](#) are deeply knowledgeable about the issues they cover, and deeply committed to assisting you in concrete ways that support organizational performance. This training is generously sponsored by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo for all Liftoff WNY alliance members.

The Business of Child Care: Raising NY Business Roundtable [Archive] – Raising NY coalition members and ReadyNation joined for a virtual roundtable to discuss how the lack of access to high-quality, affordable child care is affecting New York's workforce, how businesses can support families during the current crisis, and what state leaders can do to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on workers and businesses. ReadyNation also presented [new data](#) on the economic impact of New York's lack of access to child care.

Liftoff's mission is to promote and enhance high quality early childhood development for children up to age 5 by integrating practice, policy, research and resources.