

Liftoff Member Newsletter

Winter 2020

A Word from the Director



It's my great pleasure to welcome the New Year as the director of Liftoff and to share a few network highlights from 2019:

- Liftoff's report and landscape analysis, "Early Childhood Collaboration in WNY: Collaborative Efforts to Improve Systems and Outcomes for Young Children" was released;
- An "Aligned Action Networks and Axes of Collaboration" Workshop was held for all Liftoff members that resulted in a preliminary action plan for 2020;
- Liftoff's website was refreshed and relaunched. Our site now has expanded capabilities, is more user friendly, and includes a resource page for the community to reference and download reports; and
- Liftoff's membership increased from 25 influential leaders and institutions to 30 last year.

As we enter the new decade, let's continue do so with exuberance and intention. We have much more to accomplish, together.

Thank you for your commitment to children and families in the region and for your active involvement in Liftoff in 2020!

Best regards,

Rachel

"There is a major capacity problem for infant care across New York State. Eighty-three percent of family child care providers and 64% of child care centers report that they enroll infants. Seven out of 10 child care centers and half of family child care providers are at maximum capacity for infants."



Child Care Capacity Crisis Report

Time to invest in high-quality infant and toddler care

Raising NY recently released a report that estimated the number of infant and toddler child care slots have decreased in nearly every region of the state between 2009 and 2018, and many providers report that they are running on a deficit.

Raising NY is a statewide coalition dedicated to increasing the number of children on track for school readiness. Liftoff joined *Raising NY's* Steering Committee in late 2019, co-chaired by the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County.

For the full Capacity Crisis report, regional findings, and media advisory [click here](#).

Early Childhood Collaboration

Leveraging Cross Sector and Regional Relationships

Liftoff engaged the Center for Governmental Research (CGR) during 2019 to gather and analyze information about WNY coalitions, councils and other collaborative groups that align with Liftoff's vision and purpose. CGR's observations provided solid insights for our 2020 (and beyond) action plan to promote screenings and quality affordable child care for families with young children.

To review the full report and recommendations, visit Liftoff's website: <https://www.liftoffwny.org/reports/>

We'll be sure to discuss the report and opportunities for action at our first full meeting of the year (TBD), expected early-Spring 2020.



Liftoff Member Spotlights & Media Highlights:

Chronicle of Philanthropy:

<https://www.philanthropy.com/article/Leader-Expands-Community/247450>

Buffalo News: <https://buffalonews.com/2019/12/04/rachel-bonsignore-joins-liftoff/>

Rochester Business Journal:

<https://rbj.net/2019/10/31/childrens-initiatives-names-first-director/>

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FOR ALL CHILDREN
LEADING TO
KINDERGARTEN
READINESS.

AWARENESS AND
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AFFORDABLE **HIGH-
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CHILDCARE.

RELIABLE
TRANSPORTATION
TO ACCESS EARLY
CHILDHOOD
PROGRAMS AND
SERVICES.



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. Our vision is by Kindergarten, all children are meeting their physical, social, emotional and cognitive developmental milestones and are ready to learn and succeed, reaching their fullest potential.