



Lift Off WNY | E-News | February 2023

## Lift Off Learning Event: Help Me Grow NYS

*A better future starts with Help Me Grow!*

**HELP ME GROW NYS**  
LONG ISLAND | ONONDAGA | FINGER LAKES | WESTERN NY

**IMPACT UPDATE**

Tuesday, March 7, 2023  
9:00AM TO 10:00AM  
Join us by Zoom

Help Me Grow is a unique, nationally recognized model improving outcomes in early developmental health and family well-being. Leaders from across the state will share how Help Me Grow is creating real and life-long impacts in their communities. Please join us!

**SPEAKER**  
**Liz Isakson, MD**  
Executive Director, State for T-10 & HMD Long Island

**SPEAKER**  
**Summer Merrick**  
Program Director, Help Me Grow Onondaga

**SPEAKER**  
**Kim Avery**  
Program Director, Get Ready to Grow!

**SPEAKER**  
**Kim Stewart**  
Early Childhood Director, Help Me Grow WNY & PEDALS

**MODERATOR**  
**Rachel Bonsignore**  
Director, Lift Off Western New York

 **HELP ME GROW**  
NEW YORK STATE

Register now at :  
**EVENTBRITE**

**Help Me Grow New York** is hosting a virtual **Impact Update** on **March 7th from 9 - 10am**. The brief event focuses on the incredible work Help Me Grow has been able to accomplish with state-level support. Families and local partners will be featured to speak about their experiences and what Help Me Grow has meant to them. As a leadership partner of Help Me Grow WNY, we invite you to take this opportunity to learn more and celebrate the value that Help Me Grow is providing to our littlest New Yorkers and their families.

Register for this upcoming session [here](#) or by clicking the button below:

Register Now

## Aligned Action Update: Lift Off Goes to Albany



The month of February was a busy time for early childhood advocacy in Albany. On February 7th, Liftoff and other advocates including parents, grandparents, pediatricians, university students and more headed to Albany for the [Kids Can't Wait \(KCW\)](#) advocacy day (pictured above). The advocates met with a dozen legislators to encourage investment in young children's healthy development and to increase all Early Intervention reimbursement rates. To support the KCW campaign and our fight for Early Intervention for children with developmental delays and disabilities, [send a letter to the Governor and your Assemblymember in one simple step](#). #KidsCantWait #EarlyIntervention

On February 14th, Liftoff was back to Albany for the [Empire State Campaign for Child Care \(ESCCC\)](#) Advocacy Day (pictured below) advocating for New York child care professionals and families with young children. This year the Campaign is focused on the essential child care workforce and ensuring all of the state's children can access child care, regardless of immigration status. To support the ESCCC and encourage legislators to invest in the child care workforce, send a letter to your Senator and Assemblymember [here](#). #NYSUniversalChildCare



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## **Read all about it! Liftoff WNY Partner Reports**

**The True Cost of Child Care:** In partnership with Raising NY, ED Trust NY released a cost model that projects how much it would cost New York State to provide access to high-quality child care for all children under the age of five. For the executive summary: [Child-Care-Cost-Model-Handout.pdf \(edtrust.org\)](#).

**State of New York's Children 2023:** The Schuyler Center has released the [2023 State of New York's Children Data Book](#). One of the key learnings of the last three years is that government policy can make a real and immediate difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling to make ends meet. Those policies include tax credits, food assistance, child care supports, and expanded health coverage.

**Child and Family Well-being Index for New York State:** Citizens Committee for Children (CCC) released a new edition of their [Child and Family Well-being Index for New York State](#). The index analyzes 18 data points for each of the 62 counties across six domains of child and family well-being -- economic security, housing stability, health, education, youth, and family and community.

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