



Lift Off WNY | E-News | June 2024

Lift Off's Summer Learning Series kicks off with the Adirondack Birth to 3 Alliance



On June 18, Lift Off held its first session of the 2024 Summer Learning Series. This year's theme shares and celebrates the work of different early childhood alliances across New York State. The first virtual session featured Kate Ryan, Director of the [Adirondack Birth to 3 Alliance](#). During the session Kate shared the various roles of the BT3 Alliance which includes, convening and connection, advocacy, data and research and funding. Please see above for the full session recording,

If you enjoyed our first session, be sure to sign up for our July and August sessions.

[July & August Session Registration](#)

Lift Off attends the first-of-its-kind National Child Care Innovation Summit in D.C.



Liftoff WNY was honored to attend the National Child Care Innovation Summit, hosted by the [U.S. Department of Commerce](#), the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. "Rethinking and reimagining child care in this country will go a long way in helping us build stronger families and communities, and a more robust workforce," said U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Suzanne P. Clark. **"This is one of the defining challenges of our time—one that will require the talent, strength, and ingenuity of business and the partnership of our leaders in government. The Chamber, and the entire business community, is ready to get to work."**

The Summit united leaders from across 40 states to discuss child care's crucial role in U.S. economic competitiveness. It was an inspirational day of learning about innovative care models, policies, and partnerships! Liftoff looks forward to putting these learnings to work with our WNY Network partners and cross-sector leaders!

Aligned Action Update - Kids Can't Wait Campaign



Liftoff is a proud partner of the [Kids Can't Wait Campaign](#), championing critical changes to New York State's Early Intervention program. During the 2024 legislative session, our

collective advocacy focused on three main priorities:

1. **Reimbursement Rate Increase:** We advocated for an 11% increase in reimbursement rates for all in-person Early Intervention services.
2. **A Comprehensive Cost Study:** We pushed for a comprehensive cost study to reform the methodology for Early Intervention reimbursement rates and related services, ensuring sustainable long-term sustainability and effectiveness.
3. **Loan Forgiveness Program:** We called for an establishment of a student loan forgiveness program for Early Intervention professionals, improving workforce retention.

The Results: Early Intervention rates for services delivered in-person were increased by 5%! The State added a 4% rate modifier for rural and underserved areas, which is set to be implemented in April 2025; and the bill calling for NYS to conduct a comprehensive cost study passed through the Senate and Assembly! *All that is needed now is for the Governor to sign it!*

Tell the Governor: Kids Can't Wait Again

Celebrating Liftoff Leadership - Mary Jo Hunt



Join us in celebrating Mary Jo Hunt of the [James H. Cummings Foundation](#), named Business Woman of the Year by Buffalo Business First. As a strong thought-partner, advocate, and active member of our Steering Committee, Mary Jo has been instrumental in shaping Liftoff's vision and driving our mission forward. Her insightful leadership and passionate advocacy have made a significant impact in our work. We deeply appreciate Mary Jo's commitment and are proud to celebrate this outstanding achievement. Thank you, Mary Jo, for being an inspiring force in our community.

Photo (L-R): Tracy Sawicki, Liftoff's Chair with Mary Jo Hunt, discussing Liftoff's accomplishments during our Annual Meeting



Instagram: @Liftoff_WNY



X (formerly Twitter): @LiftoffWNY



LinkedIn: @Liftoff WNY



Facebook: @Liftoff WNY

Connect with Liftoff on socials or visit us at liftoffwny.org



{{Disclaimer}}

C/O NY Funders Alliance 431 E Fayette St. Syracuse, NY, 13202

(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)

