



Liftoff WNY | E-News | August 2025

Strong Foundations: Housing as a Building Block of Early Childhood

lift Off Western New York **STRONG FOUNDATIONS: HOUSING AS A BUILDING BLOCK OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**
Presented by Liftoff WNY:

What are the links between secure and safe housing and early childhood development? This Liftoff Learning Network event will explore how housing challenges show up in the lives of young children and caregivers and what it will take to advance solutions that truly meet their needs. Join us for a powerful conversation with local leaders who are working across systems to improve housing access and stability in our region.

Featured Speakers:
New York State Senator Sean M. Ryan, 61st Senate District
Jeff Kaczorowski, MD, Chair, NYS American Academy of Pediatrics
Kexin Ma, Executive Director, WNY Homeless Alliance
Jenni Kegler, Youth Program and Outreach Manager, Family Promise

 Friday, September 12, 2025
 12:30pm-2:00pm
 The Buffalo History Museum


Register with the QR code above

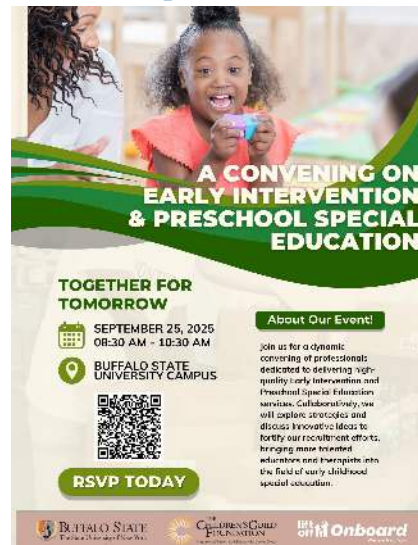
Join us for Liftoff's next Learning Network event, "Strong Foundations: Housing as a Building Block of Early Childhood Development", which explores how safe, stable housing shapes young children's futures.

Attendees will hear from [New York State Senator Sean Ryan](#) , [Jeff Kaczorowski, MD, Chair, NYS American Academy of Pediatrics](#) , [Kexin Ma, Executive Director, Homeless Alliance of Western New York](#) and [Jenn Kegler, Youth Program and Outreach Manager, Family Promise](#) .

At Liftoff, we believe every child deserves a strong start and that includes a safe, stable place to call home. Home is where young children begin to learn, play, grow, and connect. Housing is not just about having a roof overhead. It affects how children grow, how families stay healthy, and how parents are able to work, care, and plan for the future. In Western New York, the fastest growing segment of the unhoused population is children ages 0-5.

Register Today

A Convening on Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education



Liftoff is pleased to partner with [The Children's Guild Foundation](#) and [Buffalo State University](#) for a timely and important conversation for professionals working with young children with special needs in Early Intervention and Pre School Special Education Systems.

This free, in-person event builds on past convenings hosted by The Children's Guild Foundation, Buffalo State University, and Liftoff WNY. Together, we'll

examine the urgent challenges shaping the future of Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education - including workforce shortages, retention struggles, compensation gaps, and the wave of upcoming retirements. The intended audience for this event is professionals working with or on behalf of young children with special needs (service providers, therapists, special education teachers and administrators, human resource experts).

[Register & Learn More](#)

The National Children's Sabbath



The **National Children's Sabbath** is celebrated the **third weekend of October (October 18–20, 2025)**. Children's Sabbath is a nationally recognized, interfaith weekend of prayer, learning, and action that lifts up the needs, voices, and well-being of children. It is organized by the [Children's Defense Fund](#) and endorsed by more than 200 faith traditions and organizations across the country. Liftoff is working to bring this meaningful observance to faith communities here in Western New York as an opportunity to collaborate and unite on behalf of kids and engage more community voices in advocacy.

If you are connected to a faith community, or want to learn more about Interfaith Weekend, please reach out to **Megan Battista**, our **Advocacy and Learning Coordinator** at megan@liftoffwny.org.

Aligned Action Report

Onboard

Advocating for early
childhood development

Liftoff WNY is hard at work shaping our 2026–2027 New York State budget and legislative agenda. Our priorities remain clear: **advancing affordable, accessible child care; ensuring timely supports and services for young children with delays and disabilities; strengthening Help Me Grow WNY and NYS; and promoting digital equity for families.** We are also closely tracking other key early childhood issues including Medicaid, oral health, lead poisoning prevention and their broader impacts on child well-being.

If you're interested in helping shape this agenda and raising your voice for young children at home and in Albany, we invite you to join Onboard, Liftoff's advocacy network. Together, we can drive meaningful change for families across Western New York.

[Learn More: Onboard](#)



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