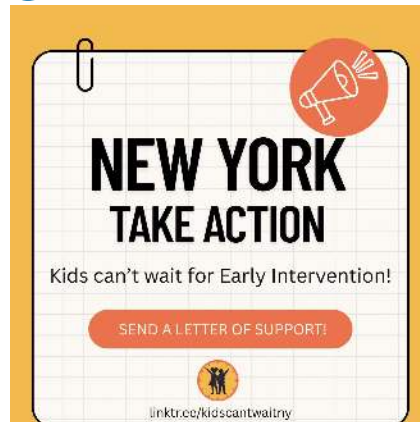


Partnership for the Public Good, University at Buffalo's School of Social Work Path to Practice Series, the Directors as Leaders Conference, and the internationally attended Collective Impact Forum with Onboard Ambassador and CCNY Inc. superstar, Emily Oaks. During these presentations, Megan shared strategies for ethical and influential storytelling that help drive systems change and build strong partnerships. She encouraged participants to view advocacy and systems-change work through a trauma-informed lens and offered memorable examples of how social media can be used effectively to advance advocacy goals.

With Summer around the corner things aren't slowing down for Liftoff! Be sure to follow us on LinkedIn for updates to ensure you stay in the know!

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Aligned Action Report



After years of advocacy, Early Intervention (EI) providers will finally see the long-promised 5% rate increase honored following federal approval. This is a long-overdue win for young children with special needs and the professionals who serve them. This rate increase has been a top priority for Liftoff and the Kids Can't Wait campaign. While this progress matters, Early Intervention continues to remain underfunded. New York State must approve an additional 8% rate increase, so children receive timely, high-quality services. There is still time to use your voice. Speak up now and help secure a New York State budget that truly values Early Intervention, because when we invest in providers, children and families don't have to wait for the life-changing support they need.

Take Action

Onboard Member Spotlight



Since the launch of Onboard in 2025, we've cultivated a growing and diverse community of ambassadors that share a deep commitment to creating a world in which our children can thrive.

To kick off our Onboard Spotlight series, we sat down with Dr. Megan Tracy, Neonatologist at Golisano Children's Hospital to discuss her involvement in Onboard.

Through her work as a Neonatologist, Dr. Tracy has come across many families struggling to get their children Early Intervention services due to a variety of barriers such as lack of providers, transportation, language differences and more. "We have a lot of families not getting all the services they qualify for. We want to make this a more equitable program". This inspired her to research organizations working to bridge this gap through advocacy and with that she learned about Liff off WNY. "I was looking for an advocacy group, and I found Liff off WNY! We have so many of the same goals, I was so impressed with their mission and their outreach", she shared. From there, she learned about our Onboard Ambassador program, and joined our network!

Since joining Onboard, Dr. Tracy has attended the Kids Can't Wait Albany Advocacy Days, as well as joined us for our different learning network offerings. When asked about her experience as an Onboard Ambassador she shared, "It's been great for me to learn from groups in other areas of the community. I've learned so much about advocacy programs and our state government... and it's fun!"

If advocating for children across the region, creating new professional connections and having fun while doing it sound like something that may be of interest to you, be sure to join us as an Onboard Ambassador! Learn more [here](#)

and if you have any questions, please reach out to Advocacy and Learning Coordinator, Megan Battista at Megan@liftoffwny.org.



Instagram: @Liftoff_WNY

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