



Spring news & updates

May 16, 2024 | Issue 28



Outcomes Team Meetings

Whole Child Initiative – May 22, 2024
High School Graduation - May 28, 2024
PECAN Public Session – June 6, 2024

Convener Work Session

Convener Meeting – June 14, 2024

Register for the June PECAN Public Session



Message from the Executive Director

“Once you learn to read, you will forever be free.” Frederick Douglass

Dear Friends,

I count my blessings to have grown up in a family that has always been extremely passionate about reading and learning. In my infancy, my parents read books to me regularly. As I grew older and gained independence to roam freely by foot or bike around our southside Chicago neighborhood, my mom would beckon me back home to read at least one book per summer. I remember coming back inside during summer months after hours of play outdoors, drenched in sweat and exhausted from pickup basketball games or “home run derby challenges” to curl up for hours with books like Red Badge of Courage, workbooks about Greek and Roman mythology and my favorite novel as a teenager, Things Fall Apart.



[Read More](#)

[Register Now](#)

Network News



RMAPI Advocacy Day

ROC the Future Alliance backbone team members and Parent/Family Partners joined RMAPI in Albany to meet with lawmakers and advocate for RMAPI's priorities in their 2024 Policy Agenda.

The coalition met with 16 statewide leaders, calling for actions that directly address the root causes of poverty -- housing, childcare, raising income, mental health, and criminalization and exploitation.

Through the statewide connections made, RMAPI hopes to better raise up our community's voice and push for legislation that enables upward mobility for individuals and families.

[Learn more](#)

Review of Proposed Budget for Rochester City School District 2024-2025

Budget Summary

TheChildren'sAgenda
Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

Rochester, NY
www.thechildrensagenda.org
Contact: Eamonn Scanlon eamonn@thechildrensagenda.org

RCSD Budget Adopted

Ahead of Rochester City School District's budget passing, this review of the 2024-2025 draft budget by The Children's Agenda highlights some of the pressing needs facing students at RCSD and offers solutions for adoption. The Children's Agenda reviewed the RCSD budget as an independent advocacy organization focusing on what works best for kids based on current research. Their areas of focus were developed over years of collaboration with caregivers, students, and community partners.

[Read the report](#)



Parent/Family Partners host workshop at 2024 Antiracist Education Conference

Nearly 800 educators, parents, and students attended the 2024 Antiracist Education Conference. Kearstin Brown-Warren and Tina Carney, ROC the Future Alliance (RTFA) Parent/Family Partners (PFPs), led a one-hour breakout session for K-12 teachers on “*Building Cultural Connections by Partnering with Families.*” Their workshop explored how partnering with parents, families and youth can break down barriers to learning that are deeply rooted in institutionalized racism.

[Read More](#)



Preparing for new Parent/Family Partners

We've been hosting a series of orientations to educate the community on the process to become a Parent/Family Partner consultant. Our current Parent/Family Partners have been instrumental in spreading the word and inviting community members to join us for each session. Their efforts have yielded outstanding attendance. We want to extend a special acknowledgment to Monica Graham, PECAN Ambassador, along with Toyin Anderson and Gail Berkes, who led our recruitment efforts for the latest event.

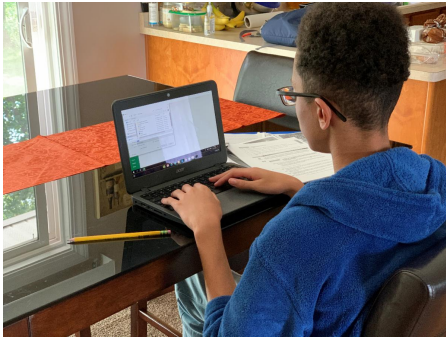
[Read More](#)



ROC the Future Alliance makes Strides in High School Graduation

The High School Graduation Outcome Team has been on an exciting journey of engagement and exploration to identify community and data driven strategies to positively impact attendance, the 9th grade experience, and high school graduation. When we say, “high school graduation,” we mean college and career ready. Our latest endeavor was on Tuesday, April 9th, where 4 RTFA Parent/Family Partners, both High School Graduation Outcome Team Co-Chairs, and 4 backbone staff came together for a 3-hour extended planning session to draft a 2024 HSGOT roadmap. In addition, we were also able to fellowship and build community.

[Read More](#)



Barriers to Black student enrollment and retention in post-secondary programs

It is no secret that many Black students in the United States encounter unique obstacles when completing post-secondary programs. However, we must make data informed decisions to address this problem.

In the fall of 2022, Gallup conducted a study interviewing 6,008 students currently enrolled in different program types, including 1,106 non-Hispanic Black students. Out of the non-Hispanic Black students included in the study, 155 were pursuing professional certifications, 287 were enrolled in certificate programs, 347 were in associate degree programs, and 317 were pursuing bachelor's degrees.

[Read More](#)



Complete the Systems Change Form

This year, ROC the Future Alliance is collecting stories from our partners to capture the way your work is making shifts in the areas of **policy, practices, resources**, and/or **power structures** to benefit Rochester youth and families.

We will utilize this form throughout the year to advance our Common Agenda, populate the newsletter, and prepare for the 2025 Report Card release. The benefits of completing this form include growing publicity for your work by sharing it with a larger audience, building alignment by ensuring collective community knowledge and mutually reinforcing one and other's work by identifying areas for collaboration and breaking down silos.

Our collective work will help Rochester achieve the StriveTogether Systems Change designation.

[Complete now](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Friday, May 31, 2024 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
1775 East Avenue, Rochester, NY

JOIN US FOR MCFC'S YOUTH AND FAMILY WELLNESS CONFERENCE



CO-HOSTED BY
QUENTIN GAUSE, FORMER
DENVER BRONCO

- Video Game Lounge
- Financial Wellness
- Yoga
- Emotional Wellness
- Jobs and Internships
- Dodge Ball, Simon Says, Freeze Tag



DINNER PROVIDED | FREE ADMISSION
Meet former Cleveland Brown Jermaine Ponder and former Philadelphia Eagle Bruce Johnson



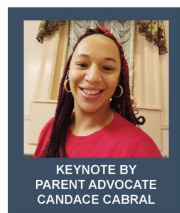
This program is supported in part by a grant from Excellus BCBS and Vision Financial Group.

Day 1 registration closed



Saturday, June 1, 2024 | 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
East High School, 1801 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY

JOIN US FOR MCFC'S YOUTH AND FAMILY WELLNESS CONFERENCE



KEYNOTE BY
PARENT ADVOCATE
CANDACE CABRAL

- Financial Wellness Workshop
- Mental Health Workshop
- The Art of Wellness
- Community Wellness Workshop
- Free Raffle
- Fun Interactive Space for Kids

FREE book bag with school supplies and wellness information giveaway.



BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED
FREE ADMISSION
Panel discussion moderated by Dr. Cheryl McKiever. Final remarks by former Philadelphia Eagle Bruce Johnson.



This program is supported in part by a grant from Excellus BCBS and Vision Financial Group.

Register for Day 2

Don't miss the Monroe County Family Coalition's 1st annual Youth and Family Wellness Conference! The theme of the conference is, 'Building Family Wellness: It Takes a Village.' The two-day event starts Friday, May 31st and will be co-hosted by Rochester native and former Denver Bronco Quentin Gause!

Day two features a keynote by Parent Advocate Candace Cabral and remarks by financial educator Dr. Cheryl McKiever. Also featuring former NFL players Jermaine Ponder and Bruce Johnson. Spread the word - this conference promises to be a transformative experience focused on family, youth, and community wellness!

Register now! Limited tickets are available.

Click here for [Day 1 flyer](#) in Spanish and click here for [Day 2 flyer](#) in Spanish.

Action for a Better Community

Join Action for a Better Community for their 59th Annual Meeting. This year's event will celebrate "Advocacy, Partnerships, and Community Impact" to recognize their team and supporters' remarkable achievements and contributions.

The following will be shared:

- Recognition of individuals who have made strides toward self-sufficiency
- Awards to three students as part of ABC's annual Youth Essay Contest
- Award to ABC Board member for their outstanding contribution to the agency



Register today

CTION for a BETTER COMMUNITY

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH CELEBRATION & COMMUNITY RESOURCE EVENT

Join ABC in celebrating 60 years of Community Action in the Greater Rochester Community.

- Free Food
- Live Performances
- Live WDKX Broadcast
- Home Ownership Workshop
- Raffles
- Fun and Games for the Whole Family!
- Free haircuts for kids

Special Guest: Spikes from the Red Wings

Vend with us! Scan the QR below to apply!

- Place: MLK, Jr. Park, Rochester
- Date: Saturday May 18th
- Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Come learn more about open positions in Head Start, Weatherization, and throughout the agency. We are currently enrolling children for Head Start aged 0-5!

@ABCINFO ABCINFO.ORG @ABCCAA

CTION for a BETTER COMMUNITY

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH CELEBRATION & COMMUNITY RESOURCE EVENT

Performances by...

- Elements Prep Step Team
- Khadija Yawn HOST
- R.O.C. City Line Dance Express

- Place: MLK, Jr. Park, Rochester
- Date: Saturday May 18th, 2024
- Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

@ABCINFO ABCINFO.ORG @ABCCAA

Community Action Agencies were established to promote and provide opportunities for low-income individuals and families to become self-sufficient.

On Saturday, May 18th, stop by MLK Park in Rochester to celebrate the great work everyone at ABC and other community agencies do daily to help give folks a path forward.

Learn More

StriveTogether® 2024 Cradle to Career Network Convening

4 MILLION FUTURES

Local solutions fueling national impact

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH | SEPT. 25 - 27 | #CONVENE2C

Save the Date

ROC the Future Alliance | 205 St. Paul Street | Rochester, NY 14604 US

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