

October 2016

The Honorable County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo
110 County Office Building
39 W. Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614

Dear County Executive Dinolfo,

I urge you to support hardworking parents in Monroe County who want to provide the best start for their children.

I appreciate the interest you have shown in improving the child care subsidy program so that it enables more families to become self-sufficient. I ask that you increase County funding for child care subsidies by at least \$1 million (over 2016 Budget) in the 2017 County budget, so that more children can receive safe, quality care while their parents are on the job.

Economists and early childhood experts agree: to build a strong future for our community, investing in early care and education for the children of employed parents is a sound strategy.

Current U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen speaks in support of these valuable investments:

“Research shows that children from lower-income households who get good-quality pre-Kindergarten education are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college as well as hold a job and have higher earnings, and they are less likely to be incarcerated or receive public assistance.” (Address to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, October 2014)

All children should have what they need to thrive and grow, but high quality child care is out of reach for low-income families. New Pre-K classrooms help some parents of 3-year-old children in Rochester, but not all. Less than a quarter of Monroe County’s eligible families are able to receive child care assistance because of inadequate funding. As a result, families too often must rely on low-cost babysitting that doesn’t provide stable, safe and high quality care. We need to do more!

Please prioritize the children of Monroe County by increasing child care subsidy funding by at least \$1 million (over 2016 Budget) in the 2017 County budget.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name (please print – signature is not necessary)

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Email address [Please print clearly]:

(exclusively for the purposes of being added to The Children’s Agenda Advocacy Network. We will not share your email address with others.)