

## Community Initiatives to Improve Outcomes for Young Children

- **CORe Initiative** – which is led by the Cuomo administration and is working to *align* programs, policies, and funding across government agencies to address common challenges; *target* efforts and investments based on places and the people the data show are linked to concentrations of distress; and *evaluate* whether the interventions are achieving intended results based on agreed-to metrics and make changes where necessary. The CORe initiative is currently working in Albany and Newburg.
- **Early Development Instrument** – The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a validated school readiness tool developed and used in Canada as well as Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Jamaica, Egypt, and Chile among others. The EDI is a unique approach in that it depends on kindergarten teacher observations of the “whole child” and data are reported back by neighborhood. A diverse community coalition then works to address the vulnerabilities identified in the EDI data, targeting interventions in specific neighborhoods, and their success is measured by subsequent rounds of the EDI (3-5 years apart). The EDI was brought to the United States by Neal Halfon, MD of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities and the United Way Worldwide. Sixty communities across the United States are now using the EDI, two of which are located in New York State – Westbury, Long Island and Ossining, Westchester County.
- **Campaign for Grade-Level Reading** – is working in communities across the state (i.e., Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, New York City, and Madison and Chemung counties) to make sure quality teaching occurs in every place that touches the life of a child. The campaign focuses on addressing three areas that are critical to ensuring that children are reading at grade level: School Readiness, Chronic Absenteeism, and Summer Learning. The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is a national program that is currently working in over 140 communities across the country.
- **Promise Neighborhoods** – is a federally funded initiative designed to ensure that all children and youth growing up in Promise Neighborhoods have access to great schools and strong systems of family and community support that will prepare them to attain an excellent education and successfully transition to college and a career. The purpose of Promise Neighborhoods is to significantly improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children and youth in our most distressed communities. There are 100 funded Promise Neighborhood programs across the country, 50 of which have Federal funds. In New York, Promise Neighborhoods have been established in Harlem, Sunset Park and Flatbush (Brooklyn), Astoria (Queens), Buffalo, and Hudson.
- **Cradle to Career** – is an initiative of the Chancellor of the State University of New York. It is located in 12 New York communities (Albany, Bedford Stuyvesant, Clinton County, Geneva, Harlem, Rochester, Astoria/Queens, Farmingdale, Mohawk Valley, Yonkers, Long Island City, and Morrisania (The Bronx)). The issues that Cradle to Career initiatives focus vary from community to community. In Albany, the focus is on improving the quality of early childhood education, improve literacy skills, increase the percentage of math proficient children by the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and reduce the school drop-out rate.
- The ECAC will be providing information about these and other community initiatives in subsequent issues of this newsletter and on its website. Please keep checking the website for new information.