



## **Westchester Children's Association and**

### **Campaign for Kids**

#### **2015 County Budget Priorities**

##### **Affordable Child Care**

- An increase in Title XX child care subsidy funding for working families of \$1 million
- A decrease in the parent share for child care from 27% to 15%
- Restored funding for a child care subsidy specialist position at the Westchester Child Care Council
- An increase in DSS reimbursement rates for child care and after school

##### **Invest-In-Kids**

- Increase the total allocation by 10% (\$ 200,000) in the 2015 Fiscal Year for out of school programs.

##### **Youth Employment**

- Continue and expand the County's public-private efforts to connect employers with young people for summer employment.
- Assure that plans for the future status and management of Playland do not decrease the number of summer youth jobs traditionally available.
- Create realistic public transportation options—bus route and appropriate timetable—to accommodate youth working at Playland.
- Continue to improve Westchester's program of summer employment for foster youth and other vulnerable teens.

##### **Safer Communities**

- Provide \$250,000 of county tax levy dollars for 1 or more pilots for school/community responses to improving school climate.

Two above items (Affordable Child Care and Increased funding for Invest in Kids) are also the key priorities for other advocacy groups. With the Child Care Council of Westchester and Community Voices Heard, WCA is promoting a campaign called **Westchester Champions for Children**, to get organizations and elected officials to endorse these top priorities.

If your agency is able to support us in our advocacy efforts please use this link to sign the Champion's for Children letter here - <http://goo.gl/forms/4r25YzUM8x> . We will be presenting this letter to our County Legislators at the first public hearing for the 2015 County Budget on November 20<sup>th</sup> and are asking organizations especially to bring groups of children, teens and parents in support.

Thank you.

Hope to see you soon on the budget trail!