



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children's Institute, ROC the Future, and Afterschool Alliance Win National 'How Learning Happens' Grant

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Children's Institute today announced that a community partnership has won a \$30,000 grant from [America's Promise Alliance](#), a national organization, to support a community convening to advance young people's social, emotional, and cognitive development both in and out of school. The Whole Child Connection at Children's Institute, a cross-sector collaboration, will work with partners including ROC the Future, the Greater Rochester Afterschool Alliance, Healthi Kids, and the Greater Rochester Health Foundation to plan the convening and follow-up action steps.

The focus will be on deepening community-building work to improve the education system, unite cross-sector partners to support whole child development with an emphasis on social and emotional learning, and improve the quality of out-of-school time programs for students ages 5 to 18.

"Children's Institute is delighted to bridge national and local leadership in learning processes, with this incredible team in the Rochester area supporting those who work with children in whole child development," said Executive Director Ann Marie White, Ed.D.

Based in Washington, America's Promise Alliance awarded the grants to five organizations selected from a highly competitive pool of 150 applications. The competition is sponsored by [How Learning Happens](#), which builds on multiple national and community-level efforts, including those of the Aspen Institute National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development. The other winners are in Boston; Nashville, Tenn.; San Francisco; and Spartanburg, S.C.

"We are proud to lift up the work of these diverse organizations to advance our collective understanding about how learning happens and identify what is needed to help young people thrive in all areas of their lives," said John Gomperts, president and CEO of America's Promise Alliance. "The convenings are an intentional step to take these communities' efforts to the next level and inspire connection among local partners while responding to their distinct equity needs and authentically engaging young people."

America's Promise will work closely with the Children's Institute to provide connections to speakers, research, data, and examples and strategies that reflect a diverse body of knowledge and are matched to local interests and needs. America's Promise also will prepare an after-action report that summarizes what was learned from the convenings.

Children's Institute is a national not-for-profit organization based in Rochester, NY that works to strengthen children's social and emotional health. Through sound research and evaluation, the organization develops and promotes effective prevention and early intervention programs, materials, and best practices for children, families, schools, and communities. Children's Institute is affiliated with the University of Rochester and has served the community for over 60 years.