



Commission on **RASE**



County • City • Community

Mayor Malik D. Evans, City of Rochester • Adam Bello, Monroe County Executive

July/August 2023

RASE Updates

Our community continues to work together to implement and expand upon the recommendations from the Commission on Racial and Structural Equity (RASE). The following newsletter lists many initiatives that were conducted over the past several months under the leadership of Monroe County, the City of Rochester, Rochester City School District, and Urban League of Rochester.



Mayor Evans launched the City's Guaranteed Basic Income Program

Financed by \$2.2 million of the City's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, [Rochester's GBI program](#) provides a monthly payment of \$500 to 351 qualified individuals for 12 months. The program prioritizes the well-being and economic stability of city residents. **Rochester's GBI program is in direct response to RASE**

Business Development recommendation "the City and County should create and invest in other sustainable economic opportunities in Black and Latinx communities to promote and maintain self-sufficiency, entrepreneurship and career advancement."

Monroe County Welcomes David C. Scott as Chief Diversity Officer

[David C. Scott, was selected as Monroe County's new Chief Diversity Officer and will oversee the Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.](#) Mr.

Scott, a Monroe County native, returns home after years working in Buffalo for more than a decade as the Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Rosewell Park Comprehensive Cancer Care Center. One of Director Scott's first initiatives in the development of a Community Diversity Advisory Council. If you are represent a group that supports and celebrates any of the diverse communities that make up Monroe County and would like to participate on the Council, please contact Director Scott at DavidScott@MonroeCounty.gov . This is in direct response to the Monroe County Diversity Action Plan.



County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency (COMIDA) Continues Investments in Workforce Development and MWBEs with \$1 Million Investment in Abero-American Action League

Join Us at Interrupt Racism Summit



The Urban League of Rochester is thrilled to announce its 4th annual [INTERRUPT RACISM™ Summit](#) occurring on September 19-20, 2023. The Summit will include one in-person day and one virtual day. It is an immersive learning experience for youth and adults, thoughtfully curated for attendees to identify, interrupt, and dismantle processes of systemic racism. This year's theme is Legacy: What Will Yours Be? Each day will include speaker presentations in the morning and workshops in the afternoon that concentrate on four distinctive areas: Structural Equity (RASE), Institutional Change (Businesses) Personal Development (Individuals), Youth Voice (Audience of high school students ONLY). **FREE community sessions available on Tuesday, September 19 from 2pm-4pm.**

County Executive Bello Launches MicroAdvantage Loan Program for Small Businesses with Targeted Funding for Minority, Women, and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses

A major recommendation of the RASE Report was creating access to capital for BIPOC-owned businesses, recognizing that traditional loan requirements present barriers to capital. In response, Monroe County launched its MicroAdvantage Small Business Loan program, which will lend qualified businesses up to \$50,000 to serve as gap financing when other sources of capital are not available, with additional benefits for MWBE and Service-Disabled Veteran Certified businesses. The announcement was made as part of a small business assistance open house held by Monroe County's Economic Development Department [information is available online](#) or by calling 585-753-2000. **This program progresses multiple Job Creation and Business Development RASE recommendations, including to "increase access to city/county financial assistance."**



The City of Rochester's Healthy Food Accessibility Initiative



This initiative focuses on the City's efforts to expand access to nutritious foods for city residents living in areas with a shortage of food options. [The City of Rochester will invest \\$5 million](#) in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to increase the [availability of healthy foods](#) to city residents. **This program meets the RASE Healthcare key issue #3 – "Impacting Social determinants of Health to Increase Racial Health Equity."**

[Ibero American Action League's Workforce and Entrepreneurial](#)

[Connections Program](#), is being supported with a \$1 million investment over four years. The funding supports case management, job training, direct job placements, training, and support services for MWBEs, business planning, and one-on-one coaching services. Ibero works directly with all community members but places a focus on the Latinx and Spanish speaking community. For more information call 585-454-1430. **This investment will help to progress RASE Business Development recommendation "the City and County should create and invest in other sustainable economic opportunities in Black and Latinx communities to promote and maintain self-sufficiency, entrepreneurship and career advancement."**





New Mental Health Centers and Telehealth Services for RCSD Students

The Rochester City School District [is proud to announce a partnership](#) that will fund advanced telemedicine units in all RCSD schools. Using telemedicine, students can access triage and assessment for acute care and chronic health issues, including mental health and follow-up at school. **This partnership advances multiple RASE recommendations**

including the Mental Health and Addiction recommendation to “assure robust services that serve our diverse communities, provided by competent, culturally informed, licensed providers working in the primary languages of persons and families seeking care.”

Consistent, Unconditional Cash for New Moms - The Bridge Project is now open in Rochester!

The Bridge Project is designed to support mothers with low-incomes during pregnancy and the earliest years of their children’s lives by providing them with consistent, unconditional cash on a biweekly basis. The program lasts 36 months, and mothers who are selected to be a part of The Bridge Project will receive \$750 a month for the first 18 months of the program and \$375 a month for the last 18 months, all biweekly. [Learn more about their work.](#)



This program is now opening applications in Rochester. For more information, please fill out the [interest form](#)! This is not the actual application, but rather an interest form. They will reach out to you to complete a formal application to be added to the official program selection pool.

This program advances the RASE Healthcare recommendation to “establish a universal basic income for women at risk for maternal mortality and premature birth who are disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color.”

Please reach out to The Bridge Project directly at info@bridgeproject.org if you have any additional questions

RCSD Employee Goes from Struggling Student to Teacher

The Rochester City School District shines a bright spot on the remarkable achievements of its dedicated employees. [The District proudly celebrate the extraordinary journey of Alesia Becoats](#), who has been offered a full-time teaching position at Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School No. 10, beginning in September. **This story progresses RASE Education recommendation to “implement and incentivize practices and programs that increase the racial/ethnic diversity and cultural competence of employees, vendors, and contractors.”**



City’s R-Centers Launch Social-Emotional Health and Wellness Pilot Program



Mayor Malik D. Evans announced the City is providing [free emotional health and wellness support services](#) at Rochester R-Centers. Starting July 19, licensed community-based child and family therapists and social learning specialists are available at R-Centers during regular

business hours for registered R-Center youth and families. To learn more about [City R-Centers](#) register now. **This program progresses the Mental Health Services RASE recommendation to “initiate the process of shifting and embedding currently funded mental health services into trusted community-accessible sites (e.g., schools, faith communities) to the fullest extent possible.”**



Monroe County joins Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Rochester to announce the Driven2Success program.

This program provides community members with financial counseling to find reliable transportation and secure affordable auto loans. Reports have shown that lack of access to safe, reliable, practical, and affordable transportation is one of the biggest barriers to finding and keeping a job. **This service is in accordance with RASE Business Development recommendation to “increase access to city/county financial assistance.”** [Learn more about Driven2Success and see if this program is right for you.](#)

Pre-Textual Stops

HAVE THE POLICE EVER STOPPED YOU IN THE CITY OF ROCHESTER?

DO YOU LIVE, WORK OR PLAY IN THE CITY OF ROCHESTER?

ARE YOU OVER THE AGE OF 18?

We are a coalition working together to improve police and community relations through exploring input on best practices for stops. Please click on the link below to participate in a survey and be entered into a drawing for one of four \$100 Amazon E-Gift Cards.

[Click here to complete survey](#) or scan

Logos: ROCHESTER, RIT, JustCause, Empire Justice Center

Reducing or eliminating Pretext Stops - where law enforcement officers stop individuals and claim one reason for the stop, when in actuality the basis is something entirely different - are a key focus area in the RASE Report. In turn, the Criminal Justice (CJ) and Policing CART was tasked with implementing the RASE recommendations in this sector. The CJ and Policing CART found that the Empire Justice Center, a statewide nonprofit law firm and advocacy organization, has a Police Reform Project that is focused on the Pretext Stops issue in our community. The CART’s collaboration with the University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology, JustCause, the Empire Justice Center on the Pre-text Stops Quality Improvement Project (QIP) **directly addresses the RASE recommendation to "End the use of pretextual stops (stops for a minor offense to investigate something else), decriminalize and de-prioritize violation-level offenses"**. By working together, [the CART and the Pretext QIP can ensure that the community's voice](#) and inputs are the foundation of eliminating a racially disparate

practice.

Save the date for the Family Health Summit

Family Health Summit
Health is a Spiritual Matter

Thriving Through Seasons of Change
(Restoration and Recovery Post COVID)

FREE SAVE 08 THE 25 DATE 23

SESSIONS TO HELP SENIORS AGES 65+ THRIVE

Joseph A. Fioreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center
123 E. Main Street, Rochester NY 14604

FRIDAY AUGUST 25, 2023

9:00AM-3:00PM

Senior Health

The objective of the Family Health Summit is for Men and Women to understand the importance of their physical, emotional, and spiritual health and to be proactive concerning any risk factors.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Workshops for Men and Women Taught by Health Professionals
- Dynamic Speakers
- Self-Care Stations
- Community Conversation
- Continental Breakfast & Lunch
- Registration Packets
- Health Exhibitors & Vendors

COST: The Family Health Summit is FREE!

REGISTRATION CHOICES:

- Online: <https://bit.ly/43LE1eP>
- Email: ihtmccoc@gmail.com
- Tel: (585) 436-9397

Family Health Summit is funded in part by a NYS Covid 19 Health and Wellness grant in partnership with Church of Love Faith Center.

CONTACT US FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
(585) 436-9397
ihtmccoc@gmail.com
1 Favor Street, Rochester NY 14608
ihtmccoc.org/family-health-summit/

Logos: NEW YORK STATE, HEALTH SERVICES, Interdenominational Health Ministry Coalition 5 John 1:2

The objective of the Summit is for senior Men and Women to understand the importance of their physical, emotional, and spiritual health. This free summit includes workshops taught by health professionals, speakers, self-care stations, continental breakfast & lunch, and much more. [Register online](#) now, email ihtmccoc@gmail.com, or call (585) 436-9397. **This summit progresses Older Adults RASE recommendation to “address issues laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic.”**

RASE Executive Team

RASE is an intergovernmental collaboration between the City of Rochester and the County of Monroe in partnership with the Rochester City School District, Urban League and Rochester and the Community. In order to actualize the recommendations of the report, an executive committee was established to guide the efforts of the broader community collaborative.

The City of Rochester

- Patrick Cunningham – Deputy Mayor
- Liliana M. Ruiz – Director of Special Projects
- John C. Brach - Special Assistant to the Mayor
- Dr. Rose M. Nichols – Director of the Department of Human Resource Management
- Dan T. Butler – Chief Equity Officer

Monroe County

- David C. Scott – Chief Diversity Officer
- BJ Scanlon – Aide to the County Executive
- Thalia Wright – Department of Human Services Commissioner
- Josie McClary – Chief Community Engagement Officer
- Nathaniel Salzman – Senior Information Specialist

Rochester City School District

- Lashara Evans – Chief of Staff
- Stephen LaMorte – Chief Academic Officer
- Marisol Lopez – Chief Communications Officer

The Urban League of Rochester

- Dr. Seanelle Hawkins - President and CEO
- Candice Lucas – Senior Vice President

Community Advancing Recommendation Teams (CARTs) are community-led groups operating under the umbrella of the Urban League of Rochester (ULR) to work specifically on implementing the RASE recommendations. CARTs represent the Urban League's efforts to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations and to be inclusive of diverse voices in the process. We invite you to [join a CART](#).

CART NAME	FACILITATOR(S)	MEETING DAY	TIME
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & JOB CREATION	Tedd Pullano	3rd Thursdays	1:30–2:30pm
CRIMINAL JUSTICE & POLICING	Cynthia Herriott & Rashid Muhammad	2nd Monday	4:00 – 5:00pm
EDUCATION	Joseph Fagnoli	1st & 3rd Thursdays	6:00 – 8:00pm
HEALTHCARE	Thomas Green and Jackie Dozier	4th Wednesdays	12:00-1:00pm
HUMAN AND SOCIAL SERVICES	Sandra Katz	1 st Fridays	10:00-11:00am
HOUSING	Laurie Mahoney and Ronald Washington	4th Wednesdays	12:00-1:30pm
MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION SERVICES	Regina Bradley	4 th Wednesdays	4:00-5:00pm
OLDER ADULTS	Phyllis Jackson and Martha Hope	3 rd Wednesdays	10:00-11:00am