



MEDIA ADVISORY

Community to Celebrate 'Detroit Day of the Young Child' Listening Sessions on and around April 27 Highlight Hopes for Young Children

WHAT:

Hundreds of Detroit parents and caregivers are taking part in community conversations in April and May 2017, culminating in the first annual Detroit Day of the Young Child (April 27, 2017). The public is invited to find a conversation near them, or to host a listening session themselves. Nearly 100 conversations -- public and private -- have already been scheduled during April and May.

WHO:

Listening sessions are being held by families, schools, youth, organizations, businesses, faith-based organizations, local government, and more. Anyone can host a listening session. Information, including toolkits and sign in sheets can be accessed at bit.ly/DetroitDOYCRRegister.

WHY:

Hope Starts Here is a yearlong planning process that includes the voices of Detroit parents and caregivers to inform and share their thoughts about what it might take to make Detroit a kid-friendly city by 2027. These community conversations will bring together Detroiters to discuss what early childhood development and care systems could and should look like and will create a platform for envisioning a brighter future for early childhood systems, and what we all need to do to get there. The ideas shared during the listening sessions will be included in the Hope Starts Here vision and action plan due out later this summer. While conversations are taking place throughout April and May, Hope Starts Here has designated April 27 to be the first annual Detroit Day of the Young Child as a way to celebrate and encourage parents and caregivers to have their voices heard.

WHEN:

Throughout April and May 2017, with special emphasis on April 27, 2017.

WHERE:

Multiple locations throughout the city. An online map of public events can be accessed at bit.ly/DetroitDOYC. Media may want to attend the following meetings where community listening sessions will also be taking place on April 27, including:

- **The 12th Annual Mayors' Task Force for the Well-Being of Children and Families**, hosted by Black Family Development, Inc., taking place at 23500 West Seven Mile Road, Detroit, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

- **Living Arts' Detroit Wolf Trap Book Debut** at the Ford Resource and Engagement Center – Mexicantown Mercado, 2826 Bagley, Detroit, from 11 a.m. – noon.
- **Brilliant Detroit Parent Center, along with Central Detroit Christian Development Corporation** at 803 Hazelwood St, Detroit, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

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About Hope Starts Here

Hope Starts Here: Detroit's Early Childhood Partnership is a **community engagement and strategic planning process** designed to create a vision and action plan to make Detroit an equitable, world-class city for our youngest residents and their families. **Hope Starts Here is supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and The Kresge Foundation.**
HopeStartsHereDetroit.org and on Facebook at [@HopeStartsHereDetroit](https://www.facebook.com/HopeStartsHereDetroit)