

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 13, 2021

FLPPS Contact:  
David Mancuso  
(585) 698-8177  
David\_Mancuso@flpps.org

Children's Institute Contact:  
Diane Trentini  
(585) 295-1000, ext. 230  
[dtrentini@childrensinstitute.net](mailto:dtrentini@childrensinstitute.net)

## Expanding Developmental Screenings for Children in the Finger Lakes Region

FLPPS is partnering with the Children's Institute "Get Ready to GROW" initiative to expand developmental screenings in the Finger Lakes region and provide screenings to 4,500 children (12-60 months old) over the next two years.

The screenings include vision, dental, speech & language, thinking & reasoning, movement, hearing, social & emotional, and height & weight, as well as new screenings for protective factors, adverse childhood experiences, and social determinants of health.

Children's Institute partners with a variety of community organizations that collaboratively work on issues impacting young children in our region. The screenings will be conducted by staff from an expanding group of partners that include Rochester Hearing and Speech, Comprehensive Interdisciplinary Developmental Services, and ProAction. The team is actively identifying and developing partnerships for screening and sustainability in each of the new counties being served in the region.

Screenings will occur in rural, suburban, and urban settings and include community-based settings, early childhood centers, healthcare providers, tele-screening, and a mobile screening vehicle (the "GROW" bus). The bus provides flexibility and removes social determinants of health barriers such as transportation or childcare to ensure easy access to screenings in Monroe and rural areas. In addition to more access in Monroe County, the program will expand into other counties to include Wayne, Livingston, Steuben, Yates, and Chemung counties.

"The Finger Lakes IPA, a partnership of the region's community health centers, six behavioral health organizations, and the S2AY Rural Health Network, is very excited to be a part of this important initiative by FLPPS to support the critical need for access to developmental screenings for young children in our rural communities. This program will give us the ability to provide access to services that are often not available due to geographic and other barriers to care experienced by our patients," explained **Mary Zelazny, Chair of Finger Lakes IPA and CEO of Finger Lakes Community Health.**

"FLPPS is pleased to partner with the *Get Ready to GROW* initiative to increase children's healthy development throughout the region. Early screening and intervention is key to a child's future success," said **Carol Tegag, Executive Director of FLPPS.**

This collaboration has enabled a wide variety of early care/education, behavioral health, and healthcare services to align their services to better serve children and families. For example, the Get Ready to GROW initiative will continue to build connections with primary care practices to assure screening results are exchanged and navigate children to primary care doctors and specialists to enable follow-up care.

“We are honored to work with families and partners in taking this important step so that comprehensive screening can become more routinely available during this special period of life when a child’s growth is so rapid. We are grateful to FLPPS for enabling this transformation so parents have more complete views of their child’s health and developmental strengths and needs – when the foundations of lifelong health are being shaped,” said **Ann Marie White, Ed.D., Executive Director of the Children’s Institute.**

For more information about Get Ready to GROW go to [www.getreadytogrow.org](http://www.getreadytogrow.org).

**Finger Lakes Performing Provider System** is a network of clinical and community-based providers working together across the 13-county Finger Lakes region to transform healthcare delivery, advance system transformation and population health, close gaps in care, and support high-risk individuals and populations.

**Children’s Institute** partners with families, community agencies and schools to strengthen the social and emotional health and complete wellbeing of children in a variety of different ways. The organization assists with the implementation of evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs; provides a range of trainings, assessments, and services to support those who work with children; and conducts research and evaluation to continuously improve efforts that support children’s positive growth and development.

**Finger Lakes Community Health** is an independent healthcare organization, founded in 1989 as a provider of healthcare for agricultural workers. The organization includes eight health centers in the Finger Lakes offering medical, dental, and behavioral health services.

###