



# 2026 Policy Agenda

The Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI) has developed a list of policy priorities for 2026 aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty by shifting power to enable upward mobility for all families.



## OPPORTUNITY-RICH NEIGHBORHOODS

### Preserve existing and create new permanently affordable housing options.

Last year, the State launched the Housing Access Voucher Program as a four-year pilot. This year, we urge the State to make the program permanent and expand it so more eligible New York families can access critical housing assistance:

- Fully fund a permanent Housing Access Voucher Program with \$250 million in annual funding

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## QUALITY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

### Enable universal child care to meet the needs of all families.

RMAPI urges New York to take significant steps toward achieving statewide universal child care:

- Fund Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) at \$1.7B to prioritize low-income families and eliminate county waitlists toward universal care
- Establish and fund a permanent child care workforce compensation program with \$1.2B (S5533/A492)
- Increase proposed \$60 million investment to \$150 million for Broome, Dutchess and Monroe Counties universal child care pilots

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## QUALITY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

### Strengthen the local food system and secure uninterrupted access to healthy, affordable food options.

Now more than ever, New York must bolster nutrition supports for all New Yorkers who need them:

- Fund the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) and Nourish NY at \$75 million each



## EQUITABLE & RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

### Advance policies that eliminate the criminalization of poverty and end racial inequities.

- Pass the SAFTE Act (A6631) to limit police traffic stops for minor violations, reduce unnecessary encounters and escalations, and address racial inequities in enforcement

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## REWARDING WORK & FINANCIAL SECURITY

### Raise the New York State minimum wage to a living wage standard.

- Introduce and pass legislation that establishes a living wage standard statewide

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