

Projects of the Fund for Public Advocacy 2002- 2007

Child Planning and Advocacy Now

2002 – 2004

Donors: The Child Welfare Fund

This project provided case advocacy services to parents, monitored ACS and foster care agencies and worked collaboratively to improve legal representation for parents in Family Court.

The project developed an integrated network of accessible community family support, early childhood services and parent education programs. The project was an extension of the Accountability Project which ran from 1995 – 2001 under the Public Advocate Mark Green. Child Planning and Advocacy Now expanded the capacity of the office to perform work by providing individual and systemic child welfare advocacy services..

The project served over 4,000 individuals through the hotline, case advocacy and support group services, touching the lives of approximately 10,000 children. The project has been on the cutting edge of policy analysis and efforts to bring about change. We published reports and policy initiatives, developed a pro Bono legal assistance network and organized a forum on child protection amongst other things.

Special Education Guides

2003- 2004

This guide was distributed to 125,000 teachers, administrators and Parent Coordinators to help them answer caregivers' most pressing questions about special education. The office was inundated with requests for guides and so produced an updated copy the following year.

The information gathered from the Public Advocate's ombudsman hotline helped in the creation of the guide and directed the office in what materials to include in the booklet including services offered to special ed students, definitions of important terms, an examination of student IEP's, and important phone numbers.

TAP: Tenant Advocacy Project

2004-2006

A joint initiative between the Public Advocate and Community Service Society that worked to help individuals, agencies, tenant organizations and local officials understand NYCHA regulations by producing fact sheets and putting together a tool kit.

The project also employed attorneys and volunteers to help to navigate the NYCHA system and determine eligibility. We created a manual of housing programs, produced workshops and supplied a multi-language hotline for callers to better assist them in their apartment search.

Partners in Prevention

2004

Partners in Prevention was an initiative dedicated to enhancing healthy relationships between parents and their children.

We made parenting education available in hospitals, schools, community organizations and doctors offices. The project employed a director to spread educational information and to educate the community about best practices in child rearing. By collaborating with institutions and expanding programs across the city we were able to produce meetings, conferences and curricula.