

“I went into this experience with a few skills that I wanted to fine tune,” says Andrea, “but beyond that I really was not sure what to expect. From this experience, I gained knowledge in policy, advocacy, and the world of politics. I learned more in these short four months than I could have bargained for.”

Defining what is meant by “advocacy” was among Andrea’s learning goals; at the end of her time at groundWork she describes it this way: “Advocacy is a great way to raise public awareness about your cause, build a network of supportive individuals, and shape laws and policies by educating legislators about what to invest in.”

GROUNDWORK is a coalition of early care and education leaders, parents, service professionals, business leaders, and organizations across the state who have come together to promote state investments and policies that will address the needs of Ohio’s youngest children. The campaign is working to ensure that every parent has the tools they need to provide a safe, healthy, and enriching environment for their children during the first six years of life.

“Andrea became a valuable member of the groundWork team and helped with many projects, primarily research-based, that support our advocacy with state legislators and other policymakers statewide. This work took a great deal of patience and understanding of the issues,” says supervisor Susan Blasko. “We see a strong advocate for children in Andrea and hope that she uses her passion to continue to improve the well-being of children in our community.”

Nadra Williams

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Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Juvenile Division (Juvenile Court)

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Honorable Judge Kristin Sweeney

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