



April 9, 2020

Hello PIC Community,

I hope this continues to find everyone well during this difficult time.

**We have no updates on the re-opening of PIC at this time and we continue to be under Governor Wolf's mandated closure of child care programs until further notice.** While programs may apply for a waiver to remain open for critical workers, PIC has determined that the risk is simply too great to children and staff members.

**Although we are closed, I am working closely with the Board of Directors on our next steps for sustainability.** And, we are not alone, as other child care providers across the state also face serious financial problems.

***I worry a lot about what will happen next.*** The child care system in the United States has always been fragile and incredibly underfunded. The current COVID-19 crisis has revealed this to be true at a level we never thought possible.

While families pay an extraordinary rate (one that is unreachable for many) for enrollment in high quality programs, teachers in the child care field earn salaries that are lower than nearly all other professions. Additionally, the rate that Pennsylvania reimburses programs for providing care to families on public subsidy does not come close to cover the cost of high quality child care.

The stability of PIC, as with the entire child care industry, is in jeopardy. This week, we submitted an application for funding relief through the economic stimulus package. We continue to follow every other avenue of funding. Yet we still have no idea of the outcomes of any of these.

**Now is the time when advocacy is needed.** While we hope that more federal stimulus money will be forthcoming, our immediate focus is on [a statewide stimulus effort that would directly impact child care programs.](#)

No one can return to work if there are no child care programs ready and able to re-open after this crisis resolves. We want to continue to pay our teachers so that they are here for your family when we do re-open. To do so, we need additional funding. **And, we need your help!**

**[CLICK HERE to tell Governor Wolf and the General Assembly to include child care in PA's stimulus package.](#)**

I appreciate the ongoing support of the entire PIC community and hope that you will take action to help PIC and the entire child care field.

Continue to stay safe and be well!

Deb Green  
Executive Director