



**START
STRONG
PA**

**PRE-K
FOR PA**

READY TO SUCCEED
AN INITIATIVE OF EARLY LEARNING PA

No child care. No recovery

Pennsylvania can not successfully reopen for business unless early learning programs are saved. Why?

- Currently nearly every learning program and child care center in the state is closed
- 30% of all programs indicate they will not reopen if there is a prolonged shut down and no financial relief.



What does this mean?

- 70% of all children have all their parents in the workforce.
- As businesses reopen, 1 out of every 3 providers will no longer be there to support the workforce.
- High-quality programs will be the first to disappear, impacting children's social, emotional and educational short- and long-term gains

What can be done to save early learning programs? Policymakers should focus COVID-19 recovery funds on

- Enabling the rapid reopening of early learning programs and return to work for all families by:
 - Continuing to pay child care subsidies and Pre-K Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance Programs contracts for the duration of the closure.
 - Compensate high-quality providers for lost child care subsidy parent co-payments (prioritize STAR 2-4).
 - Cover a portion of uncollected private pay tuition for high-quality child care programs (prioritize those serving subsidized children and STAR 2-4).
 - Doing so will conserve unemployment compensation funds, stabilize early learning provider capacity and ensure a sufficient supply of child care providers for an economic recovery

Continued

- Protecting children and child care professionals and ensure confidence in Pennsylvania's early care and education system during recovery by:
 - Making sure that all child care, Pre-K Counts and Head Start programs have access to free training on sanitization practices required to re-open and covering the cost of sanitizing government-funded programs.
 - Supporting programs that provided child care for essential workers by guaranteeing immunity from COVID-19 related lawsuits associated during the crisis.
- Boosting early school success for this year's Pre-K Counts and Head Start students by funding one month of summer instruction for children entering kindergarten in the fall.

Next Steps

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