



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?

Specifically, policymakers should focus COVID-19 recovery funds on:

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.

It is imperative that state leaders take these actions immediately to save early learning in PA!

And as state budget discussions get underway, we urge policymakers to increase the stability, supply and quality of the infant and toddler child care classrooms that have been decimated by the crisis. Investment is needed to ensure infant and toddler programs are available and equipped to operate ensuring the safety and healthy development of young children, while alleviating the anxiety of parents returning to work.



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