Save the Date: September 18 2020!  
Public Hearing on Young Children Experiencing Homelessness and Early Learning

Partnering with Congressman Dwight Evans, we are organizing a public hearing on

Friday, September 18, 2020, 10 AM to 11 AM.

We plan to answer the question: are young children who experience homelessness accessing high quality early learning programs, i.e., Head Start, high quality childcare, and home visiting?

Registration information will be forthcoming. For now, please save the date.

PEC Launches Innovative Prevention Program
by Kathy Desmond, President, PEC

In late June, PEC launched its a homelessness prevention program for families in West Philadelphia. The program offers one-time housing assistance grants to families experiencing homelessness and Department of Human Services (DHS) involvement in the Promise Neighborhood. Grants may be used toward back rent, past-due utilities, or security deposit and furniture for new housing. Qualified families also receive up to three months of case management to ensure that they achieve stability beyond receipt of the grant.

We rely on strong community relationships to operate this innovative school- and community-based approach to housing insecurity. The program was designed in collaboration with and accepts referrals from local schools, DHS Community Umbrella Agencies, community
development corporations, and PEC’s own Action for Early Learning (AFEL) and Building Early Links for Learning (BELL) teams.

The program has already proven beneficial to several Promise Neighborhood West Philadelphia families. Nicole’s story (her name has been changed to protect her privacy) is a great example of the power of prevention. Nicole, a single mom, lives with her two children and works as a childcare provider. Like many people, she was furloughed at the start of the COVID-19 crisis and lost three months’ worth of wages before she was called back to work. Despite the critical role she plays providing childcare, Nicole’s income barely covers her essential expenses, and without that income she was unable to keep up with her monthly rent and utilities. By June she owed $1,000 in total to her landlord, electricity, and gas companies. She worried that she could never pay back those debts and would lose her home or her children. With PEC’s assistance Nicole was able to clear all her debts and move forward on more secure financial footing.

Nicole’s family is just one of many in West Philadelphia grappling with precarity and the added uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic. Throughout this crisis and beyond, PEC will be here to support these families and ensure the ongoing health and resilience of our community.

**Philby Households Completing the Census?**

According to United Way’s July newsletter, “Just more than half of Philadelphians have filled out the 2020 Census...city and state leaders anticipated difficulties in getting an accurate count even before the COVID-19 pandemic.”

We can do better! Please help get the count as right as possible. Encourage staff, colleagues, customers to complete the Census.

Find out how to complete the Census at the [Philly Counts website](https://www.phillycounts.org).

**ACTION ALERTS**

**Advocate for Housing:**

Before the pandemic, there were more than 5,000 Philadelphians homeless. Now, most everyone is aware that thousands more could become homeless and fall without support for renters.

The U.S. Senate is expected to decide the next COVID 19 stimulus package. Some are thinking of renters, most are not.

Contact Senator Toomey and urge include comprehensive housing assistance in the next COVID-19 relief package that includes anti-eviction measures, support for homeless persons, and provide emergency vouchers.

- Email to [http://toomey.senate.gov/](http://toomey.senate.gov/)
- Telephone to (202) 224-4254
- Twitter: @SenToomey

Learn more about the need for housing support

**Advocate for Child Care: #SSPAChat #SaveChildCare**

**What:** Start Strong PA #SaveChildCare Twitter Chat

**When:** Thursday July 30, 2020
1:00 - 2:00 pm

**Where:** Log into your Twitter and search #SSPAChat

**How:** Start Strong PA will host the conversation and ask participants the following questions:
1. What makes the child care business industry unique in this public health and economic crisis?
2. What is the financial impact for child care programs as they work to remain open or re-open?
3. What else do our members of Congress need to know about the child care crisis?

You get to Tweet your answers, like and retweet others responses and most importantly get the message to our elected officials that we need to #FundChildCare to #SaveChildCare!

Start Strong PA Twitter Chat intends to build from the national Twitter Storm and call-in #SaveChildCare day on July 16, 2020.

With Congress needing to pass a new relief bill to deal with the continued economic fallout of the novel coronavirus, the time is now to make sure they know that the child care crisis is real and without child care there is no recovery.

Help Someone Register To Vote

Can you ask one person to register to vote?
Can you ask groups that you belong to?

Who can you ask?

Register online here.

Well, How Should The Federal Government Address Homelessness?

In past newsletters, we encouraged readers to tell the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness how it should respond.

We are waiting the results. While we wait, read what the SchoolHouse Connection offered.

Their key emphasis recommendation was to have a stronger focus on children and youth who experience homelessness. Counties and states should be mindful of these recommendations. Read their suggestions.

STAY CONNECTED: