

Dear Friend,

Our children have been immersed into a new way of life that none of us could have ever imagined. Interactions with friends and other personal exchanges are limited if they happen at all. Now, we are beginning to step into uncharted territory, trying to determine how to safely open up our schools and keep our children and families safe. All of us were hoping that this pandemic would have been under control by now, but instead, we find ourselves working hard to adjust and do the best for our children under difficult circumstances.

We also understand that there are parents who rely on our programs, and we keep this at the forefront of our minds in all of our decision-making. I, along with my colleagues Moira Weir, CEO of United Way and Chara Fisher Jackson, CEO of Preschool Promise, came together to write an opinion piece on the value of Early Childhood Education in our community and how we must prioritize our children, especially now.

I want to invite you all to attend our Virtual Open House on the Head Start Facebook page, Thursday, August 13, at 3:30 p.m. to get a better understanding of our plans to move forward and how families can register their children for our Head Start Program.

We will continue to make it through this together.

Best,
 Mark B. Lawson, Esq.
 President/CEO

OUR VIEW: Funding for safe, affordable child care must be priority for lawmakers
 - Moira Weir, Chara Fisher Jackson, and Mark Lawson

The success of our nation returning to work and reviving our economy is wholly dependent on one industry – child care.

As Congress considers a stimulus package to breathe life into our pandemic recovery, it must include significant stabilization funding for an industry on the brink of collapse. Without a healthy, safe child care industry, parents will be unable to return to work, threatening their financial stability, the business success of their employer, and the economic recovery our nation desperately needs.

Here in Greater Cincinnati, where United Way invested heavily in early education for more than two decades (at least \$125 million in past 20 years), where we have a world-class Head Start program (\$26 million annually), where the community passed the Preschool Promise levy (\$15 million annually) to specifically support early childhood education, our hard work is threatened in the wake of a pandemic that led many child care operators to close and others to barely hang on, with lower enrollment rates, less revenue and increased expenses.

[Read the entirety of the op-ed written by Moira Weir, Chara Fisher Jackson, and Mark Lawson here.](#)

Support CAA Today

CARES Rental & Utility Relief Program

Hamilton County Commissioners are teaming up with the Freestore Foodbank, Talbert House, and CAA to help cover the rent and utility costs for eligible Hamilton County families affected by the COVID-10 pandemic to:

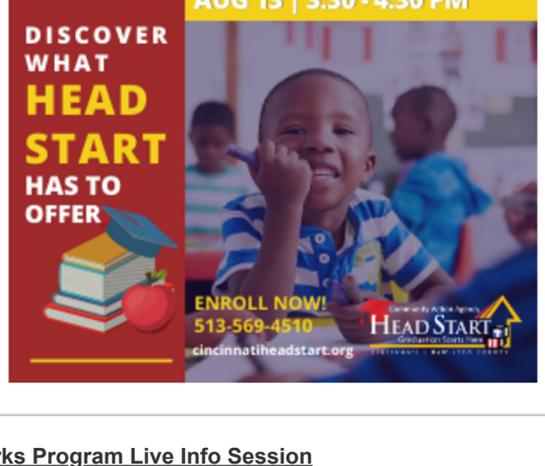
- Grants can cover up to \$2,500 or 3 months of rent/utilities
- Low and moderate-income families are eligible (80% of Area Median Income, e.g., a family of 4 with annual income at or below \$69,050)

[Click here to learn more.](#)



Head Start Virtual Open House

Come see what our Cincinnati-Hamilton County Head Start program has to offer during our virtual open house this Thursday, August 13 from 3:30p - 4:30p. Meet our staff, tour our facilities and learn more about Head Start! You can join our live virtual open house [@CincinnatiHeadStart](#).



Tech Works Program Live Info Session

Join Community Action Agency's Career Pathways team for a live information session on Thursday, August 13 at 2 pm, to discuss our TechWorks program, how to enroll, and career opportunities for those who want to earn the CompTIA+ Certification. You can view this live information session [@CincinnatiCAA](#).



Mobile Food Pantry

A special thank you to Congressman Steve Chabot for volunteering at our mobile food pantry this week at [The Welcome Project](#) (2936 Colerain Ave.). Our next mobile food pantry will be on August 19 from 2-4 pm at Community Action Agency (1740 Langdon Farm Road.) [Click here](#) for a complete list of upcoming pantry dates.



Head Start Enrollment

Head Start leaders are working to open our Head Start classrooms safely this Fall. Our decisions and plans will be based on guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, and any state direction that is provided in the next several weeks. All parents will receive quick communication regarding our plans.

You can now enroll your child in our Head Start or Early Head Start programs by calling 513-569-4510 or visiting www.cincinnatiheadstart.org.



CAA is Hiring

Join our team and help make a difference. Work in a fast-paced, growing organization, while receiving a comprehensive benefits package that includes:

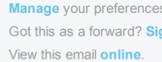
- Competitive starting salaries;
- 10 paid holidays each year;
- Seniority-based paid time off;
- Flexible benefits plan with medical, dental, and life insurance options; and
- Professional development/training opportunities.

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