



## EARLY EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The mission of the TFEC Early Education Initiative is to cultivate, convene, and strengthen community opportunities for growth, safety, and wellness for all children, now and for future generations.

The TFEC Early Education Initiative is guided by the expertise of the TFEC Early Education Advisory Committee. The membership of this group consists of early childhood stakeholders who represent the assets and needs of children and early childhood professionals within our area communities.

In 2020, the Early Education Initiative needed to rethink how services were delivered due to COVID-19. Many planned events had to be halted due to the stay at home orders and social distancing requirements. Despite such challenges, the initiative created resources for the community around early education.

\$11,100

### Early Education Assistance Fund

Early Education Assistance Fund

175

### Participants in Five Town Hall Meetings

425

### Visitors to COVID Virtual Resource Center

TFEC offered early education assistance for families in Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, Franklin, Lebanon and Northern York counties through its Early Education Assistance Fund. The Fund provides opportunities to eligible Pre-K students ages 3 to 5 years old to attend a quality early learning center or preschool program located in TFEC's service area.

TFEC awarded \$11,100 to five families: two families from Perry County, and three families from Cumberland County. The number of applications received was much less than the previous year due to the temporary closing of childcare facilities and parent's ability to work from home.

For more information on how you can partner & support the work of TFEC's Early Education Initiative, contact us at:

**The Foundation for Enhancing Communities**  
200 North 3rd Street · 8th Floor · Harrisburg, PA 17101 · 717.236.5040 · [www.tfec.org](http://www.tfec.org)

# 2020

## REPORT CARD



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### Town Hall Meetings

The goal of the town hall meeting series is to bring school district teachers and administrators, child care providers, preschool teachers, and community organizations together to discuss current Early Education topics and needs facing our region during COVID-19. Each meeting consists of updates from the Office of Child Development and Education, the PA Key, and local child development programs. The following topics were discussed:

- Safely Re-Opening Early Childhood Centers
- A Director's Experience in Operating an Early Childhood Center During COVID-19
- Executive Director's Experience in Operating Multiple Early Child Development Centers During COVID-19
- Community Outreach efforts made by the Early Learning Resource Center
- Review of Safety Regulations for Child Care Centers and Preschool Programs
- Federal Cares Act updates
- Procedures for reporting COVID 19 cases and closing protocols
- Using a hybrid model in a school district and a report of successes and failures
- Overview of a center working with two districts, one hybrid and one using in person instruction.

### Online Resource Center

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, TFEC launched an online Early Education Resource Center. It provides resources on educating children at home, coping with mental health issues during times of uncertainty, and resources on becoming a trauma-informed community. The Early Education Resource Center also hosts school readiness tip sheets. Infant, toddler and preschool tip sheets, all aligned with Pennsylvania Learning Standards, are available for parents, teachers and child care providers. The activities are simple and easy to do at home.

Visit [www.tfec.org/early-education-resoure-center](http://www.tfec.org/early-education-resoure-center) for more information.

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