



Petersburg Children's Center
Eagle's Nest
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The mission of the Petersburg Children's Center is to promote the healthy development of children and families in Petersburg by offering dependable, high-quality child care and by actively working toward the positive growth and development of all children in the community.

11/29/2021

Petersburg Assembly
c/o Petersburg Borough

COVID-19 Outbreak in town

As you know the Petersburg Children's Center is a nonprofit childcare facility in Petersburg Alaska. We care for children from 6 weeks in age to 12 years old. We are open from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm year-round, while only closing for major holidays and having four early closure days in a calendar year for our staff development. Children in our care are also fed breakfast, lunch, and snack. We recently were affected by the outbreak in town. As a result we closed our center for a total of 6 business days. This closure greatly affected our families in our care and even more so our staff.

While childcare is an essential business for a thriving economy it is often overlooked in terms of competitive wages and revenue in general. One thing we know for sure is that childcare is expensive, we understand this and strive to keep our expenses low so we can keep our rates low. Currently we charge the lowest amount that the state is advising we charge as a result our wages are reflected. Also due to the physical nature of childcare our staff were adversely affected by our closure.

Currently we would greatly benefit from getting the cost of our closure \$5072.57 returned to us. We are currently seeking some funding from the ARPA funding that is being offered to nonprofits. However, with the ever-changing regulations, and nature of this global pandemic and the already razor thin margins from a nonprofit childcare facility funding that is awarded to our childcare facility is greatly appreciated and will be used in the best way possible. Any funding that is awarded to the Petersburg Children's Center will be used to ensure our continued quality childcare for the children of our community.

Thank you for your considerations. I would also ask that in the future the borough assembly consider a more structured childcare specific funding, as this is a constant need of childcare facilities in our town. Juneau has a wonderful example of their funding.

Thank you!
Sharlay Mamoe