

April 11th Update & Outlook

As many celebrate different religious traditions this weekend, we at PCF are struck by two thoughts in that context: our hope that this virus passes over quickly and our desire to rise up stronger. In that spirit, we have been working to keep residents in their homes and creating a network of hope and support to keep Princeton strong.

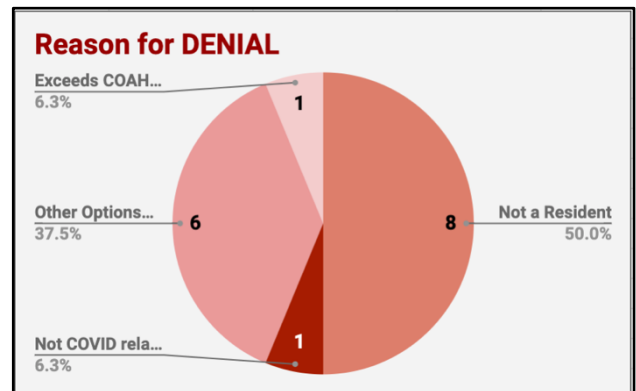
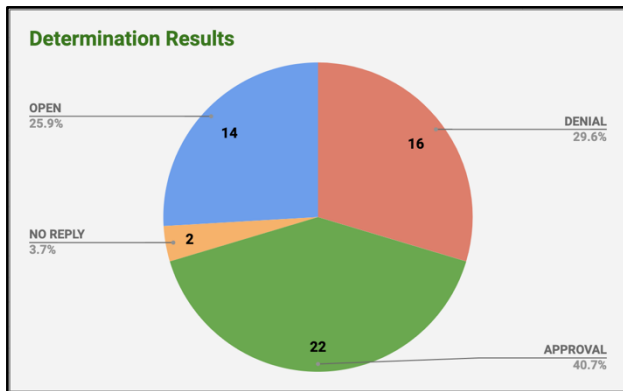
Fundraising

As of today, we have raised over \$120,000 through donations from more than 500 people. In a town of 30,000 people that's under 2% so we have opportunity and work to do here. Please reach out to your networks and ask them for support. They can donate at www.princetonchildrensfund.org through PayPal or by sending a check. We have had continued success in partnering with landlords and that will make a significant difference in our reach. For example, in early estimates when the CERF was shouldering applicant expenses alone, we would be able to help 93 applicants with \$120,000. Between the "landlord sharing" and support from the Housing Stability Coalition we can now help 160 applicants with that same \$120,000. Arguably, a significant increase is realized when we work together. We have a call Monday about the grant from PACF through their COVID emergency relief fund. We hope to learn the amount of that grant during the call.

We believe that there are likely 500 residents who will need our support during early stages of this pandemic so we are a little more than 30% of the way along in fundraising toward the short-term goal. Longer-term estimates have that number well over 2,000 residents (see attached) so we will keep an eye on the data and trends.

Applications

We have expanded our team of case managers and have continued working to get flyers distributed to potential applicants as well as publishing videos for those who may prefer audio-visual communication. We have received 54 applications so far. We have approved 22, issued denials to 16, closed 2 for non-response, and have 14 open cases. At this time, denials have primarily been for applicants who do not reside in Princeton (8) or for whom Unemployment Insurance Benefits were available (6). One applicant was denied for income that exceeded the 2019 COAH limit for family size and one other failed to respond to any of the outreach attempts from case managers.



Reasons to H.O.P.E. (Help One Person Every day)

We find ourselves at a juncture in time where there are no solutions to repurpose from "last time" – there was no last time – so we are charting the course as we walk it. For some, the uncertainty is overwhelming and it has created a huge void of worry, or even fear. Others are comforted during this time through faith, prayer, and quiet reflection. Regardless of mindset, most would agree that a void exists where former schedules and routines used to fill our waking hours. This void can be an opportunity for growth and improvement; it can be a fresh patch of garden, free of the weeds of politics and bias that used to exist and that limited progress.

This weekend, as you celebrate holidays in new ways, or have some quiet time to reflect, think about the incredible opportunity and the possibility that has been afforded us in this strange time. How can we make our planet healthier? How can we make our community stronger? How can we be a better neighbor or friend? How can we let those we love

know how much they mean to us? What seed can we plant to grow a better tomorrow – a tomorrow that is sustainable and more equitable for every person? Then start doing it – plant that first seed.

With each passing day as I witness the kindness, generosity, and community that is growing in this void, I am more optimistic that we will rise up stronger. I continue to be grateful every day for the work you have all contributed to this effort, and for your prayers. If I have not told you recently, thank you, I am grateful for you, stay home, and make hope and kindness contagious.

Sending love, prayers, and holiday wishes -