

April 30, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you and your families are healthy and have the support that you need in these uncertain times.

We know there have been many questions about the Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP)'s summer programs, including Community Schools' Camps, Cambridge Youth Programs' summer programs, Recreation programs and the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program among other offerings. We want you to know that we are thinking about summer, too, and are engaged in planning even as we are uncertain as to what summer will shape up to be.

Governor Baker has ordered that all public and private schools remain closed for the remainder of the academic year and that all non-emergency childcare programs remain closed until June 29, 2020. In addition to the State's guidance, DHSP is following the City's guidance about operating programs. We recognize that this situation continues to change and that our plans may need to change as well. In light of the new timeline from the Governor, we will need to engage in planning for what might be virtual programming as well as a modified schedule for in-person programming.

We recognize that our registration period for Community Schools Summer Camp and Cambridge Youth Programs was interrupted when schools closed. This is also the time when we would normally be putting out the application for the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program. We will be working hard to readjust our processes to match the new realities and once we know more about how we will be proceeding, we will be back in touch.

In the meantime, we would like you to know that our staff throughout DHSP are eagerly looking forward to being back in programs with your children and will be working hard to find ways to serve your children and youth in some way this summer.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility. We appreciate everyone's patience as we navigate this process for the first time. We will communicate an update of our plans during the second week of May.

If you or your family would like to access resources, including virtual opportunities to engage your children in activities, you can visit www.finditcambridge.org . For the latest City of Cambridge information related to COVID-19, visit www.cambridgema.gov/COVID19 .

Sincerely,

Ellen Semonoff
Assistant City Manager

Michelle Farnum
Assistant Director

Sue Walsh
Assistant Director

