

April 9, 2020

Dear Camp Hope Family:

This communication comes to you in the hopes that you and your family are safe and healthy! Please review the weekly communications sent out by Linda Lucas, CEO, regarding how the COVID-19 Crisis has impacted our programming and operations, and most importantly, the efforts in place to keep all of us safe.

So...what are we doing about Camp Hope this summer? That is a great question. As Governor Murphy just extended the current restrictions in place for another 30 days, we are not seeing the light yet at the end of the tunnel. What we are doing is still moving ahead as though Camp is operating this summer so that if significant restrictions are lifted, we can transition smoothly into having our wonderful program.

Below are some Q&A's that may help with questions that you have. If you need further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to Jenn DeBarr at jdebarr@arcessex.org or Erica Zupkus at ezupkus@arcessex.org.

- **Given the State of NJ program restrictions in place and social distancing requirements, is Camp Hope operating this summer?**
 - Answer: At this time, with the current information available from the State of NJ, we are proceeding with Camp Hope operating this summer.
- **Should I submit my Camp Hope application?**
 - Answer: Yes. To assist us in quick processing of applications, please complete the Camp Hope application via the writable PDF provided on our Camp Hope website and e-mail the completed application back to us. Camp applications can be found at www.arccamphope.org
- **When is the DCF application deadline for Camp funding?**
 - Answer: For families with campers under the age of 21, DCF/CSOC has announced the extension for the deadline to apply for funding to Saturday May 30, 2020. Please visit the Performcare website to complete your application, before May 30, 2020 at: <http://www.performcarenj.org/families/disability/summer-camp.aspx>.
- **My family member is over 21 years old. When should I contact my Support Coordinator to have the service entered into his/her ISP?**

- Answer: Call your support coordinator now to have your camp units entered into your ISP; this allows time for the plan to be reviewed, ask questions, and work with your Support Coordinator to manage any changes, if needed.
- **My family member is a new camper this summer. Will the in-person intake be conducted?**
 - Answer: All new campers will be contacted via phone to complete the initial intake process. During this intake call, the Camp Hope Staff will review your camp application and ask specific questions about your loved ones support needs required for them to be successful Camp. If additional information is needed, the Camp Hope teacher form may be sent to your family member's teacher or day program to complete and return to us. We still anticipate having an open house in late June prior to the start of camp to meet your camper.
- **I have applied for an Arc of Essex County Campership (not DCF or DDD), when we will hear if we have been awarded a campership?**
 - Answer: Due to the extension of various application deadlines, we will not be able to review applications until the end of May. We anticipate letting families know the status of their campership application by June 10, 2020.
- **Should I pay any fees to The Arc of Essex County related to Camp Hope? If Camp Hope does not operate this summer, will I get my money back?**
 - Answer: Yes. If applicable, you should include the Camp Hope fees with your application. If Camp Hope does not operate this summer, options will be available for refunds.
- **When will we know if Camp Hope is operating?**
 - Answer: We anticipate that by the end of May, we will have enough information on group restrictions and the current guidance for program operations from the State of NJ, DCF and DDD so that the Camp Hope Summer Program can be evaluated to determine how to proceed for summer 2020. As soon as this decision is made, applicants will be contacted and the decision will be posted on the Camp Hope website, www.arccamphope.org, anticipated to be no later than May 30, 2020.

As further updates become available, we will post them to our Camp Hope website www.arccamphope.org

Thank you.

Laurie Best, Sr. Director
Adult and Children's Services