



May 1, 2020

Dear Community Program Participants and Families,

We miss you and we are empathetic to the substantial impact COVID-19 has had on our entire community. The issues of potential job loss, roommates coming and going, deciding to go home, remaining at home, etc. are all complicated issues to navigate and are highly variable for everyone involved. What we can tell you is that while we do not have an exact date of when the Community Center will re-open, we are working on a phased re-entry plan for MICC employees to return and begin providing limited in-person services and opening the Community Center in some role. Our team is eager to return and the MICC Leadership Team is closely following the guidelines and instructions from Governor Walz to carefully map out the operational details required to reopen responsibly. Participant and employee safety are a priority along with ensuring that we can establish preventative measures and social distancing practices within services and social spaces.

Throughout the pandemic we have seen situational changes leading to some participants returning to Richfield while others have returned home only after being furloughed from a job three weeks into the order. This has not been a static situation for families. We understand that this decision is a family and participant decision and is ongoing across our community daily. Whatever your choice, we want you to know we are here for you, to the degree we can through the new virtual services we have developed. We encourage everyone, no matter where you may be living, to take full advantage of all the services being offered by Specialists, Career Services, our Wellness Team, and our Social Engagement Team. Career supports, Specialist check-ins, emotional support, schedule assistance, grocery planning, fitness classes and social activities will all remain a focus during this time so that participants keep up their confidence, skills, and emotional resilience for a smooth transition back when we are able to do so.

Our goal is to be transparent and communicate as we set plans on how to safely return to in-person services with state guided social distancing practices in place. If you have questions or would like to consult about how we can support any transition you may be considering, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

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