



# PARENTS IN COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

**Administrative Offices:** 700 Humboldt Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55411  
Phone (612) 374-8309, Fax (612) 374-8311  
Website: [www.picaheadstart.org](http://www.picaheadstart.org)

**Early Childhood Family Development Centers**

March 11, 2022

**Aubrey Della**  
6415 Brooklyn Boulevard  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429  
Phone (763) 535-7422  
Fax (763) 533-4239

**Donald M. Fraser**  
700 Humboldt Avenue North  
Minneapolis, MN 55411  
Phone (612) 377-7422  
Fax (612) 374-8342

**Glendale**  
96 St. Mary's Avenue S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
Phone (612) 874-7422  
Fax (612) 362-4163

**Helen H. Taylor**  
4901 Olson Memorial Highway  
Golden Valley, MN 55422  
Phone (763) 541-7422  
Fax (763) 259-0292

**McKnight**  
4225 Third Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55409  
Phone (612) 825-7422  
Fax (612) 827-8712

**Northeast (NELC)**  
342 Thirteenth Avenue N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55413  
Phone (612) 379-7422  
Fax (612) 362-4163

**Park Place**  
2745 Park Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
Phone (612) 870-7422  
Fax (612) 879-5544

**PICA Training Center**  
4255 Third Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55409  
Phone (612) 822-7422  
Fax (612) 821-2201

**POND**  
9600 Third Avenue South  
Bloomington, MN 55420  
Phone (952) 884-7422  
Fax (612) 874-1471

**Portland Village**  
1829 Portland Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
Phone (612) 871-7422  
Fax (612) 874-1471

**South Branch**  
7145 Harriet Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423  
Phone (612) 861-7422  
Fax (612) 866-0637

**Southwood**  
4901 West 112<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
Phone (612) 871-7422  
Fax (612) 874-1471

**Town Hall**  
8500 Zane Avenue North  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443  
Phone (763) 425-7422  
Fax (763) 425-4703

Representative Tina Liebling  
Chair, Health Finance and Policy Committee

## Re: Support for HF 4099

Rep. Liebling and Members of Health Finance and Policy Committee:

As the Executive Director of Parents In Community Action, Inc. (PICA) Head Start, I am writing to you to express our strong support of HF 4099. PICA is a current recipient of funding under the Community Solutions Grant Program. As a result of this funding, we have been able to increase the number of low-income fathers and fathers of color participating in our Men Are Important male involvement program, thereby strengthening father-child bonds, encouraging men to become more involved in their children's education, and creating a more stable home environment for young children. We have also worked to increase the number of men successfully completing one or more of PICA's Parent Workforce Development Programs and obtaining employment in their selected field. While these outcomes are certainly beneficial to our program, they are also of significant benefit to our larger community, improving the well-being of families, supporting children's healthy growth, reducing employment disparities, and addressing the critical labor shortage in our community.

We believe it is critical to support HF 4099, which would allow additional funding to be invested in the Community Solutions Grant Program. Our positive experience with this funding, and that of other grantees, is not simply reflected in the expansion of programs focused on those we serve, but is also an investment in the overall health and well-being of our community. Finding common ground and developing effective solutions to the challenges facing our community allows Community Solutions grantees to participate actively in the process of reducing inequities, build upon participants' strengths, and strengthen our own communities.

On behalf of PICA, I strongly encourage you to support HF 4099. Investing in the health and well-being of young children is the first—and most important—step toward improving the health, well-being and prosperity of our communities and our entire state.

Sincerely,

Jay Elrico Alexander  
Executive Director

Head Start is federally sponsored through the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

