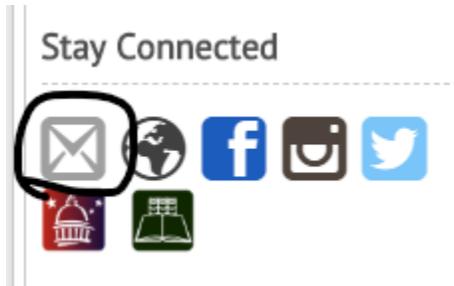


Instructions on how to find your state legislators

Visit [Find My Legislator](#) to look up you PA State Senator and Representative by address. From there, click on his/her name and look for the email icon:



This icon will either show you the Member's email address or it will take you to a contact form. Use the template below to email your Legislator about the importance of New Choices. Be sure to personalize the email as much as possible. **Please conduct your outreach by April 8, 2020.**

Content for your email (please personalize the parts in yellow)

Subject: Please Support New Choices in the PA Budget

Dear [Senator / Rep. NAME],

Thank you for your leadership during this challenging time. It's so important that we come together as a community to support one another, the economy, and ensure everyone's health and wellness.

I know that you and your staff are handling an overwhelming influx of inquiries from your constituents and that you're doing everything possible to help. I also understand that you continue to manage other critical state business, including the state budget. **To that end, I am writing to ask you to help ensure that the New Choices/New Options line item of \$750,000 in the Labor & Industry budget maintains level funding in the 2020/21 fiscal year.** Governor Wolf included this funding in his proposed budget.

I live in your district [explain connection to elected official]. I volunteer as [board member / CAC member / other (describe connection to program)]. I have seen first-hand the positive impact New Choices has on women's lives.

Now more than ever, it is critical that funding for this proven workforce development program is supported. Once we find ourselves on the other side of this unprecedented crisis, mass numbers of Pennsylvanians are going to need support getting back to work. Over the past 26 years, New Choices/New Options has built a reputation as a life-changing solution by empowering more than 66,000 Pennsylvanians to find employment that pays a family-sustaining wage. New Choices/New Options supports individuals faced with challenging career transitions, such as single parents, refugees, survivors of abuse, and others.

Through New Choices/New Options, participants build their confidence and self-esteem, solidify their direction in the job market, and learn foundational career skills they can apply to any job, such as job search and interview techniques, computer skills, professional communication, and more. **This transformative experience results in an 82% placement rate into jobs or continued education.**

New Choices/New Options clients find living-wage jobs that give them the power to break the cycle of generational poverty and find stability for themselves and their families. In 2018/2019, this program delivered successful outcomes and savings for the state. Graduates' average starting wage in new employment was \$15.02/hr. with many positions including benefits. Considering added tax revenue, Medicaid savings and more, New Choices/New Options provided the state approximately \$1.5 million in savings.

As we move through and past this crisis, workforce development programs will be more vital than ever to help our economy recover. I ask that you encourage your Leadership to support a final budget that includes the \$750,000 investment into New Choices/New Options.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional details. I appreciate your consideration and continued support of this critical program funding. I can provide you with a draft letter of support for your review.

Sincerely,