

### **A Call to Action for the Child Life Community: Offering Grace During an Unprecedented Time**

Thank you for your continued support of children and families throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This continues to be an arduous time, and your strength and perseverance are applauded.

As we approach the upcoming internship cycle, we would like to acknowledge some of the significant challenges that have been at the center of discussion among the child life community:

- There is a widespread staffing shortage.
- The increased prevalence of burnout in healthcare has impacted child life professionals.
- There are more students than available internship placements.
- The current internship application process is challenging for all stakeholders.

Given these circumstances, we ask all to extend grace, kindness, and patience to one another. The internship process is unique in that it necessitates collaboration and integrity throughout the entire child life community. Training future child life professionals is a critical step in alleviating the growing number of child life position vacancies.

Over the past three years, ACLP has brought together stakeholders and subject matter experts to improve the internship process. From a new internship application to a revised Pledge for Internship Equity and Access, we are excited to begin unveiling the work that has been done.

The launch of the new Internship Readiness Common Application is scheduled for January of 2023 to be used for the Fall 2023 internship cycle. We are confident that the new application will offer relief to many challenges associated with the current process.

Some of the improvements to the application include:

- Letters of recommendation are no longer required
- An electronic application
- Unofficial transcripts will be accepted
- Consistent formatting

Please continue to reference the [Internship Readiness Project](#) page for updates and resources as we prepare for the release of this new application.

In conjunction with the launch of the new application, we also plan to release an updated Pledge for Internship Equity and Access. This updated pledge will include improvements made to the internship experience over the past three years as well as provide organizations the opportunity to recommit to our shared goals. In the meantime, please review our current [pledge](#) to consider action steps you may take now to help.

It will take the entire child life community to advance our shared goal of creating a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive child life education and training experience for all. Thank you for your attention and support.