

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Kennett Area Community Service
 Address: 136 West Cedar Street, P.O. Box 1025
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 Phone: (610) 925-3556
 Website: www.KACSONline.net

Date: October 30, 2017

Executive Director/Contact Name: Melanie Weiler
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 Year Incorporated: 1993

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes No Not Sure
 Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes No Not Sure
 Donor Advised Fund(s) Fund for Chester County Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities Environment/Animal Welfare Education
 Health Human Services Religion

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):
 Primary service areas includes three school districts: Kennett Consolidated, Unionville-Chadds Ford & Avon Grove.
 Homeless prevention, diversion, rapid re-housing and housing stabilization includes the Oxford School District.

Description of Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

Households must have an income below 180% of the Federal Poverty Line which is \$43,740 for a family four. The Kennett Food Cupboard served 3,131 unduplicated individuals for a monthly average of 1,230 individuals and 406 families. Those served were: Seniors Citizens 8%, Adults 48%, Children 44%; Hispanic 54%, Caucasian 38% and African American 8%. The Emergency Assistance Program provided financial assistance payments to 799 unduplicated individuals (287 families). Through the expansion of services and in-house partners ranging from employment services, family benefit and nutrition education to laundry and bathing facilities for the homeless, KACS served 250 additional households without providing financial assistance. Over 105 of these families were either literally homeless or at imminent risk of losing their home. Of the households served, 47% had not been to KACS previously for emergency services. Those served were comprised as follows: Seniors 5%, Adults 48%, Children 47%; Hispanic 74%, Caucasian 19%, African American 8%

Mission: *Serving People in their Time of Need*

Proposal Summary: We are requesting support for direct service funding that will reduce hunger and emergency needs in our community through the Kennett Food Cupboard and/or the Emergency Assistance Program.

Annual Budget \$ <u>1,595,595</u>	<u>5</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>92.0</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>11</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>6.0</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>65</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>2.0</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>15,905</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<u>100</u> % total	

Top 3-5 funding sources: United Way of Southern Chester County; Chester County Community Foundation; Chester County Department of Community Development; Individual Donations; Church Contributions

Grant Amount Requested from CCCF: \$ 25,000

We are requesting a \$25,000 grant that can be broken down as follows:

KACS	Food Cupboard	Emergency Assistance	Number of families supported
Food Purchased	\$500-\$7,000		7-80
Emergency Assistance for Families		\$500-\$18,000	1-50

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

Kennett Area Community Service (KACS) began in 1954, when a group of Kennett Square citizens joined to deliver holiday food baskets to local families in need. This effort was led by Bill Buffington, who began offering food assistance on a regular basis. After three decades, it became clear that food insecurity was only one area of need for the local families. Bill began providing heating oil assistance to warm the homes of the families he grew to know well. The Emergency Assistance program was born and has now grown to encompass housing stability services offering rent and utility financial assistance as well as crisis intervention for local families experiencing an emergency. In 2014 KACS underwent a strategic planning process that birthed the resource support to further meet community needs. But even greater than a new program, strategic planning led to the pivotal moment in KACS history when a deliberate decision was made to help families move from surviving to thriving.

This vision reflects a philosophical shift at KACS: *We are an organization committed to serving families and all individuals in the [fight against hunger and homelessness](#) in the Kennett area and surrounding communities. We are responsible stewards of the community, helping members of the greater Kennett community to lift themselves in a dignified manner out of the cycle of poverty.*

KACS is the only organization of its kind in the Kennett Area providing three primary programs of service – The Food Cupboard, Emergency Assistance Program and Resource Building. KACS has experienced great success over the past few years. In 2013, KACS was recognized by the Chester County Department of Community Development with the first annual “Community Partnership Award” for our “vital contribution in the work to prevent and end homelessness in Chester County.” The following year the food cupboard intake and client tracking systems were updated allowing us to capture more information and better coordinate the food cupboard and emergency services programs to meet client needs in advance of crisis. Most recently, through the generous collaboration of a multitude of community partners, KACS opened the new facility. The 2,300-sq. foot Resource Center opened in June 2016 and allowed for the expansion of the Food Cupboard and bring community partners onsite to provide client-centered case management space, laundry and bathing facilities for those experiencing homelessness, training space and office space for seven collaborating agencies to bring a dynamic range of services—some of which were previously inaccessible for clients.

2. Funding request

Description of key initiatives and activities to implement the initiative.

The Food Cupboard, one of the largest in Chester County, provides nutritious supplemental grocery items such as meat, dairy, eggs, fresh produce, bread, grains and canned fruits and vegetables to food insecure families and individuals. The program offers a week's supply of nutritious food each month to 420 families, including food deliveries for seniors and continuing our traditional events at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Families and individuals come to the Food Cupboard on average 6 times throughout the year. The food program evolved in 2014, maintaining the low-barrier emergency food program and adding the relationship driven, Healthy Options program that provides additional high-quality nutrition while capturing expanded information on 93% of Food Cupboard participants. The program now includes nutrition education, a 10-bed raised garden program and comprehensive community volunteer program.

The Emergency Assistance Program (EMA) provides cash grants to prevent eviction, pay overdue utility bills, purchase prescriptions, pay for essential transportation, and other urgent needs. In 2016-17 program year, KACS provided food assistance to 786 unique households and EMA payments to stabilize 287 households. Case Management and referral services were provided to all households plus an approximately 250 additional households sought these services, of which 56 households were literally homeless.

The final program, Resource Building, started in 2015 and dramatically changed how KACS supports families. KACS implemented a nationally recognized strengths-based framework (based on the book *Bridges Out of Poverty*) aimed at reducing local poverty and building long-term sustainability for participants. Additionally, in June 2016, KACS opened the Resource Center to provide client-centered case management space, additional support of the homeless, and new partnerships to better serve KACS participants and the greater Kennett Square community. In 2016-17, 958 households received on site case management or related support, 158 people used the laundry center and 59 homeless individuals took showers in a private, sanitary, and welcoming environment.

Through three core programs, Kennett Food Cupboard, Emergency Assistance Program and Resource Building, KACS prevents over 3,000 individuals from being homeless or hungry.

Specific needs and issues to be addressed

Funding is needed for the Kennett Food Cupboard and Emergency Assistance Program. Both programs provide case management and resource development to prevent further hunger and homelessness. The Kennett Food Cupboard program addresses hunger and food insecurity by providing quality nutrition to households in need. Nationwide 1 out of 8 people are food insecure and rely on community support to receive food and other basic needs; 47,000 food insecure individuals live in Chester County yet less than a third qualify for the SNAP program. Addressing food security is key because it is directly related to low academic performance in children and preventable disease in both adults and children.

Income for many families can change monthly. Preliminary data from US Financial Diaries reveal income from low- and moderate-households often fluctuates from month to month in both amount and timing, and in ways that are often outside of the households' control. Because of this, households regularly experience changes in their ability to cover basic expenses such as rent and utilities. The Emergency Assistance program helps families secure and maintain safe, warm housing.

Organizational impact if initiative is undertaken

Through this grant, KACS will assist up to 60 families with a 5-6 day supply of nutritious food to help eliminate hunger in our area. Up to 50 families will also receive emergency financial assistance and case management to help those at heightened risk of becoming homeless or losing electricity, water or heat. This is essential for families to minimize crisis, secure resources and build long term sustainability. Through funding, we can continue to meet the current needs in the community and continue to reduce need for services in the region.

In the Food Cupboard, funds are needed to maintain quality nutrition through year-round bulk purchasing and inventory control. While the community provides an ample quantity of shelf stable items, particularly around the holiday season and garden items in the summer, purchasing is needed to maintain perishable items like proteins, dairy, fruits and more. Funding ensures a consistent food source helping families function at their best and increase their chances of success.

The Emergency Assistance Program meets individual needs and impacts hundreds of families. Funding will allow KACS to continue to work with clients to find sustainable housing and utility options that will keep families stable well beyond the conclusion of services.

Why it is important to fund this now

KACS takes a proactive approach to stem the tide of increasing need in the Southern Chester County community. The increasing cost of living places pressure on families working low wage, often part-time jobs. Self-sufficiency standards for families are now 300% of the Federal Poverty Level in Southern Chester County. Local families in crisis need food, housing and advocates in finding and securing resources.

How impact and results will be demonstrated

Goals for the 2017-18 programs are as follows:

- Provide consistent, quality nutrition to families. Maintain inventory for a 5-6 day supply for families each month
- Case management to provide sustainable results, 50% of families do not return for additional financial assistance for 18 months or longer. However, case management is given when needed.
- Housing or utilities to be maintained by 90 days or longer for 95% of clients. 85% after 1 year.