



September 12, 2017

CCCF
28 W. Market St.
West Chester, PA 19382

Greetings:

It is with great pleasure and pride that I submit this application for \$10,000.00 in funding from The Chester County Community Foundation for support of the Phoenixville Area Positive Alternatives (PAPA).

This past year has been one of great success at PAPA. Over one hundred and thirty elementary school students participated in the Summer Activities for Enrichment (SAFE) program, receiving supplemental instruction to the school year in math and reading as well as other cultural enrichment opportunities. With the funds requested we will approximately reach 575 students from then local elementary school and middle school with our academic programming where they receive remedial and enrichment programming after school, and evening empowerment programs.

I thank you for your consideration of PAPA and look forward to hearing the decision of the Board for the CCCF Foundation.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexis Boswell
Executive Director

Enclosures

Please visit our new website PAPA1995.org

Phoenixville Area Positive Alternatives
at Franklin Commons
400 Franklin Avenue, Suite 224
Phoenixville, PA 19460

610.983.4110 fax: 610.983.4111

www.PAPApbx.org

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Committee Members & Fund Advisors.
Note: If Philanthropy Network of Greater Philadelphia's Common Grant Application is used, the Community Foundation's

Summary Sheet MUST accompany application.

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date 9/1/17

Contact Information

Organization Name: Phoenixville Area Positive Alt. - PAPA
Address: 400 Franklin Ave., Suite 226, Phoenixville PA 19460
Phone: 610-983-4110
Website: www.papa1995.org
Year Incorporated: 1995

Executive Director Name: Alexis Boswell
Executive Director E-mail: PAPA19460@gmail.com
Board of Directors Chair Name: Greg Thornton
Primary Contact Name: Alexis Boswell
Primary Contact E-mail: PAPA19460@gmail.com

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): **Chester County**

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: PAPA serves the underprivileged and at-risk youth of the Phoenixville community. On a yearly basis, PAPA serves approximately 60 elementary and middle school students in our after-school programs, 25 girls in our Miss Love program, 20 boys in our Mr. Cool program, 130 youth in the S.A.F.E. Summer Camp, and almost 160 boys and girls in our Summer Basketball League. Currently, we are working on expanding our youth programs to accommodate a safe haven for middle school and high school children to hang out after school.

Mission: PAPA supports the youth of Phoenixville in becoming successful and productive adults through programs that have a positive impact on self-esteem and life skills development.

Proposal Summary: The purpose of this proposal is to request funds to help assist with resources for all of our various programs we provide throughout the school year and summer. With the request of funds, we would be able to expand some programs, offer extended hours and possible add some extra-curricular activities to the programs, art, healthy lifestyle assistance, etc.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

___ Mission, Vision & Strategy ___ Governance & Leadership ___ Strategic Relationships
___ Fundraising & Development Other: _____

Annual Budget \$146,970.00

80% of budget for program expenses

15% of budget for administrative expenses

5% of budget for fundraising expenses

1 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
7 # of Board Volunteers
0 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
715 # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Community Coalition, Phoenixville School District, and PA Department of Education, & Phoenixville Education Foundation.

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$10,000.00

Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

Phoenixville Area Positive Alternatives (PAPA) was founded in 1995 in the spirit of the Million Man March. The mission is to enhance the lives of the residents of the Phoenixville community through programs and functions that have a positive impact on self-esteem and life-skills development. Since 1995 PAPA has grown from five individuals committed to an idea into a positive, effective and motivating force in the Phoenixville community. PAPA is primarily volunteer, grass-roots organization that is the sole formal, structured program for at-risk youth between the ages 7-17 in Phoenixville.

PAPA's key achievements in the past 22 years have been nothing less of amazing. We are the first organization to offer free after school academic tutoring programs, that are all housed in district schools. We've adopted a park in the community and revived it; celebrate fathers at our annual Father's Day Community Celebration; offer a six-week free summer camp for up to 150 elementary students; a young men and women's empowerment program, along with a summer basketball league and annual Christmas party at the local senior center. What makes PAPA stand out from other non-profit organizations in Phoenixville, is the strong partnership that we have with the Phoenixville Borough and Phoenixville School District.

The current goals PAPA has listed in our new strategic plan are; sustain new funding sources, increase a more diverse group of volunteers to provide a greater oversight, expand staff to effectively support PAPA, and strengthen existing programs as well as create new programs to meet the community need.

Funding request

- **Description of key initiatives**

PAPA would like to request funds for programming; New Directions and Fast Forward After School Programs, and Miss Love and Mr. Cool programs. All four programs are offered free of charge during the school year. **New Directions after school** program is offered at Barkley Elementary for students 1st-5th grade from 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Monday through Thursday. Students in the program are identified by the school principal, guidance department and teachers. At the program students are paired up with High School and College tutors (all volunteer) help with homework, reading enrichment, as well any other specified area that is identified. **Fast Forward after school program** is an extension of New Directions offered at the Phoenixville Middle School from 2:45 pm – 4:15 pm Monday and Wednesday. This program has the same process as New Directions with identifying students in need of the service. Again, tutors from High School and College are there to help with homework, studying for tests, enrichment and also placement testing (PSSA's). Students complete homework assignments, with the help of tutors, in a relaxed atmosphere conducive to the learning process. Homework is then checked, and the students are required complete their homework time with individual reading. Recreational reading gives Move Ahead students the chance to increase their vocabulary, improve reading comprehension, develop the habit of reading on a daily basis, and ultimately impact academic performance on standardized tests. Move Ahead strives to foster and promote open communication

between administrators, teachers, and most importantly the parents of student participants, to ensure the students' individual academic needs are met.

Program staff and tutors work diligently to not only assist with homework completion and quality, but stay in communication with classroom teachers to address immediate academic deficiencies and provide remediation. Hands on projects and activities were used to develop reading, writing, critical thinking, and listening skills. All these skills are necessary for students to perform at their fullest potential.

Lastly, **Miss Love and Mr. Cool** are two programs offered in the evening for an hour and half at the local Recreation Center once a week (opposite nights) for young girls and boys 11-16 who need a positive outlet and safe place to voice themselves. Both programs have a 7-week curriculum all designed around topics each group picks from with what they would like to discuss and learn about. There are weekly incentives for attendance and guest speakers on topics they want to learn about. Both Miss Love and Mr. Cool are empowerment programs designed around young adults and issues/topics they are faced with each day, that they may not feel comfortable speaking to a parent, teacher, counselor, etc. Participants are allowed to attend the program up to 2 times, and are encouraged to come back after their first session graduation.

- **Specific needs and issues to be addressed**

In the Phoenixville School District and with community initiatives it has been addressed that the youth need after school programs to “vent” and to receive homework assistance. PAPA has been providing addressing these 2 needs for years. Our after-school programs have been running since 1995, and our empowerment programs have been for 7 years. Although these two programs may not meet the need of every students in Phoenixville, it does meet the need of those who fall between the cracks. A large fraction of students who are recommended for any of our programs are already considered to be ‘at-risk’ of failing, dropping out, or not receiving the support they need at home. Implementing these positive programs in their lives at young ages, allows us to catch them before they fall, and build them up for future prosperous lives.

Organizational impact if initiative is undertaken

- **How will this grant enhance your organization’s capacity?**

With the funds from this grant it will help us be able to offer our programs to the youth of Phoenixville for no charge. Being able to offer free of charge programs, it allows us as an organization to be able to reach out to youth that may not have the means to pay for such programs that offer help they may need. Our programs reach many at-risk youth, but with additional funds, we would be able to reach more youth, as well as offer Miss Love and Mr. Cool multiple sessions throughout the school year.

- **How will this increase in organizational capacity be measured?**

At New Directions and Fast Forward After School program, we measure the program by administering weekly homework logs track the amount of time and level of difficulty the students may have. At the end of the week, they are given to their teachers, who then review

the logs, and inform us later of any suggestions or additional homework support they can give us to help the students. At the end of each marking period, PAPA is given access to students report cards, that we then can track throughout the year of they're progress. In past years, 9 out of 10 students increase one grade level each marking period, or stay the same, but none drop below the firsts quarter grade. The Miss Love and Mr. Cool program is measured by attendance and surveys. Programs participation is maxed out at 10 students per session, and thus far 75% of the students who have participated in the programs, have come back for a second session.

- **Activities to implement the initiative. Please include a description of the expected activities; timeline and costs to implement the initiative. If external consulting services are required, include the anticipated costs and expertise of the consultants to be hired.**

At the two after school programs, 70% of the granted funds will go towards the salary of a part-time site coordinator, and the additional 30% goes towards supplies and monthly "fun" things for the students; trips, pizza and movie day, etc. Regarding Miss Love and Mr. Cool, PAPA hires a facilitator to conduct the curriculums of each program. At the end of each session, PAPA rewards all of the participants with small gifts and as well as a celebratory graduation dinner of groups choosing.

- **Why it is important to fund this now**

It is important to fund these programs NOW, because it is the beginning of the school year. This is the opportunity for PAPA to recruit and promote our programs in the biggest capacity possible; back to school nights, one on one's with teachers and principals. We can approach the schools early, ask for their help and support, and get the students who need the help EARLY, before they are left behind or go down the wrong road.

How impact and results will be demonstrated

The result will be demonstrated in the grades and attitudes of the students these programs impact. When students' grades or their inner selves improve, it is shown in the classroom, home, community, and in their attitudes. When a program can shape those areas in a child, it overall can better a community. A prime example of a result from our Miss Love program is, we have a young lady who was quiet and failing in school. She went through the program twice, and as a result, is now on honor roll and worked at her first job over the summer. Hearing and seeing these results from programs PAPA offers, reaffirms how much our mission is such a true statement and testament to Phoenixville.