

GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

The Chester County Community Foundation connects people who care with causes that matter, so their philanthropy makes a difference now and forever.

- The Community Foundation is a collection of Funds: Field of Interest Funds + Donor Advised Funds.
- All Community Foundation Funds accept this grant application form.

Proposals submitted by nonprofits will be considered for 2 types of grants:

1) FIELD OF INTEREST & DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

- ◇ Proposals received **any time throughout the year** are eligible for funding consideration from the Foundation's Field of Interest Funds & Donor Advised Funds.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$500 - \$7,500**.
- ◇ Grant decisions are made **intermittently** throughout the year, as Fund Advisors desire.
- ◇ Proposals are **electronically shared** with Fund Advisors to assist them in making grant decisions.
- ◇ **General operating** grants are encouraged. Nonprofits should be specific about their mission, goals, and measurable outcomes.
- ◇ Grants **focus on Chester County** causes and issues, but **are not limited** to Chester County.
- ◇ Grants may be made to charitable nonprofits working in **all fields of interest** including arts, culture and humanities; education; community improvement; environment; religion; health; and human services.

2) FUND FOR CHESTER COUNTY CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

- ◇ The goal of the Community Foundation's capacity building grantmaking is to **strengthen the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations serving the Chester County region**.
- ◇ Capacity building proposals received by **September 15** annually will be eligible for this special grant initiative.
- ◇ Capacity building projects should strengthen a nonprofit, in areas including:
 - Mission, Vision & Strategy
 - Governance & Leadership
 - Strategic Relationships
 - Fundraising & Development
- ◇ Grant **awards** range from **\$500-\$5,000**.
- ◇ NPO's with budgets \$ 750,000 or less preferred
- ◇ Grant monies are distributed by **February**.
- ◇ Nonprofits must be **located in and serve Chester County** to receive a grant from this special initiative.

- A proposal is considered "complete" when the Chester County Community Foundation has confirmed receipt of the **Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative and Attachments**.
 - Proposals are shared electronically online with Fund Advisors and the Grants Committee.
 - The electronic form is available at www.chescocf.org.

Per IRS regulations, applicants

- must be charitable, tax exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification
 - cannot be individuals
- **E-mail proposals are strongly encouraged to grants@chescocf.org**
 - Receipt will be confirmed by e-mail.

Please contact Kevin Baffa or Beth Harper Briglia at (610) 696-8211 or grants@chescocf.org if you have any questions. Thank you.

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

Contact Information

Organization Name: Chester County Food Bank
Address: 650 Pennsylvania Drive, Exton, PA 19341

Phone: (610) 873-6000

Website: www.chestercountyfoodbank.org

Year Incorporated: 2009

Executive Director Name: Larry Welsch
Executive Director E-mail:
lwelsch@chestercountyfoodbank.org
Board of Dir. Chair Name: Lauren Intinarelli
Primary Contact Name: Norman Horn
Primary Contact E-mail:
nhorn@chestercountyfoodbank.org

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:

The Delaware Valley of Pennsylvania is an area with a rich agricultural history, yet many people are deemed as food insecure. Chester County Pennsylvania, with a population of 509,797 has more than 58,000 residents that are considered food insecure.¹ Children account for 18,260 of the food insecure in Chester County.² Recent studies on food insecurity and food access suggest that it is not only access to healthy food options but also affordability that impact food insecurity.³ Despite its ranking as the wealthiest county in Pennsylvania, the disparity between those who represent the population's wealth and those who lack financial means is disproportionately wide. This disproportion is an extreme divide to bridge for the 35,686 residents who live below the federal poverty level. With 18,870 school aged children in the county qualifying for free or reduced rate lunch through National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs, it follows suit that the number one request of emergency food providers in the county is for continued access to fresh produce.⁴ Coupled with the requests of nearly 4,456 of 25,390 adults/seniors who live in the county at or below the federal poverty rate⁵, the divide holds even greater consequence.

¹ 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5 year estimates

² Feeding America, 2014, CommunityCommons.org, Source geography: County

³ Mayer, V.L. Hillier, A., Bachhuber, M.A. et al. J Urban Health (2014) 91:1087.

⁴ National Center for Education Statistics, NCEs-Common Core of Data 2014-2015. Source geography: Address

⁵ 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5 year estimates; Chester County, PA

On average, Chester County Food Bank serves 50,000 residents through programs and nutrition education.

Mission:

Our mission is to mobilize our community to ensure access to real, healthy food.

Proposal Summary:

Chester County Food Bank seeks general operating support to sustain its current programming and funds new initiatives proposed for 2018.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

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

Annual Budget	\$4,573,451	24	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
84	% of budget for program expenses	11	# of Board Volunteers
11	% of budget for administrative expenses	2,300	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
5	% of budget for fundraising expenses	16,385	# of Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>			

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Enterprise Rent A Car Foundation \$112,500
 Claneil Foundation \$ 64,000
 Davenport Family Foundation \$ 50,000

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$7,500.00

Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness:

The Chester County Food Bank is dedicated to our mission to mobilize our community to ensure access to real, healthy food. The first eight years of serving food-insecure adults, children and seniors have been marked by successful growth in all aspects of our programs. We have significantly increased our food distribution capacity by capitalizing on the expertise of our staff; harvesting healthy produce from the rich agricultural land in our county; partnering with those who work that land by sustainable methods; and gratefully enjoying the services of more than 2,200 regular volunteers. Thanks to this combination of human and land resources we've accomplished the following:

- ❖ Collected, grew, prepared, stored, and distributed more than 2.3 million pounds of food--the equivalent of 1.9 million meals to food-insecure adults, children and seniors.
- ❖ Approximately 600,000 pounds of fresh produce was locally grown and/or sourced locally.
- ❖ Our local community of caring individuals, socially responsible companies and grocers stepped up and donated 507,000 pounds of non-perishable food items.
- ❖ We introduced nearly 95,000 pounds of nutrient-rich milk, eggs and cheese into homes and organizations.
- ❖ We sourced and purchased 914,000 pounds of food and 65% of that food was fresh produce.

Our Nutrition Education programs include *Eat Fresh*, community-based cooking classes designed to teach all ages how to purchase, prepare and incorporate healthy produce and other staples into their meals and *Taste It* - opportunities to increase families' exposure to new foods through sampling and cooking demonstrations. We have carefully expanded and evolved our *Youth-Focused Nutrition Education Program* to include *Food Back Packs*, cooking classes and nutrition education. We serve low-income children ages 3-18 served at 39 different sites, including public and charter schools, learning centers, Head Start programs, and after-school and summer programs. During Fiscal Year 2016 we distributed 85,034 pounds of food in 22,675 Packs to 1570 unduplicated school age children. The *Fresh2You Mobile Market*, increases access to fresh fruits, vegetables and nutrition education resources with a focus on SNAP (food stamps) and PA Farmer's Market Nutrition voucher recipients. The Mobile Market connects low-income community members to the bounty of fresh produce grown in our region by working closely with the Food Bank's Agricultural Program and a network of partner farms. Fresh2You seeks to make high-quality food affordable to the whole community at fair value to the farmer. Now in our third year, we make weekly stops at 8 locations in 7 towns. The *Raised Bed Garden (RBG)* program has over 125 sites at schools, corporations, senior centers and churches. These gardens contribute to the 33% of the fresh produce that we distribute to our network of food cupboards, meal sites and social service organizations.

Funding Request, Impact and Demonstrated Results:

Even in the wealthiest county in Pennsylvania, children go to bed hungry, seniors forgo nourishing food in order to buy medications and single parents struggle to make ends meet. Thousands of families, seniors, homeless, working-poor, immigrants, mentally and physically challenged adults, veterans and more are hungry and need food assistance.

On the surface, the area abounds with resources and opportunity - significant corporate investment, valuable real estate, numerous award winning school systems and reputable institutions of higher education. With its known per capita wealth and median home value of more than \$325,000, Chester County is also a place where the cost of living is extremely high—31% higher than the U.S. average. Tens of thousands struggle to afford rent, medical insurance, transportation, childcare and most importantly, healthy food. Statistics indicate that an annual salary of \$65,000 is needed for a single parent with one child to be self-sufficient in Chester County.

Nutrition is a priority for the Food Bank. It informs programming and operations throughout the entire organization. Providing nutritious and abundant food is only a part of our strategy to address food insecurity in Chester County. We also seek to improve individual and community health by strengthening the food environment and providing education on how to select, prepare and enjoy nutritious foods. CCFB Nutrition Education Programs serve food insecure households in Chester County by:

- ❖ Expanding access to nutritious food, particularly fresh produce and healthy staples

- ❖ Increasing knowledge of how to select, grow, and prepare healthy, culturally appropriate foods
- ❖ Providing knowledge and skills related to food safety, preparation and storage
- ❖ Increasing understanding of meal planning and shopping on a limited budget
- ❖ Collaborating with partners to support food environments that improve individual and community health

Our Nutrition Education programs include:

- ❖ *Eat Fresh*, community-based cooking classes designed to teach participants of all age groups how to purchase, prepare and incorporate healthy produce and other staples into their meals; and
- ❖ *Taste It*, opportunities for children and adults to increase their exposure to new foods through sampling and cooking demonstrations at a variety of food distribution sites and community-based agencies.

We have carefully expanded and evolved our *Youth-Focused Nutrition Education Program* which includes the distribution of *Food Back Packs*, cooking classes and nutrition education. We seek funding to continue to serve low-income children ages 3-18. During Fiscal Year 2016 we distributed 85,034 pounds of food in 22,675 Packs to 1570 unduplicated school age children. With a reported increased need throughout the summer months to address food insecurity, we seek to increase our programming to ensure children and adolescents are provided with the nutrition no longer available through school meal programs. Recognizing this need to support our children beyond the traditional school year, the Food Bank now works with Kennett Area Community Services, Kennett High School and Mary D. Lang Elementary School to provide Back Packs to more than 500 low-income students attending summer school classes 5 hours a day. This program is an excellent example of how the Food Bank has stepped up to support our schools that otherwise do not have the funds to purchase the food.

In 2015, our first year of our *Fresh2You Mobile Market*, we significantly increased access to fresh fruits, vegetables and nutrition education resources with a focus on SNAP (food stamps) and PA Farmer's Market Nutrition voucher recipients. The Mobile Market connects low-income community members to high-quality affordable food at fair value to the farmer. Now in our second year, we have expanded the program to include weekly stops at 8 locations in 7 towns.

With roots stemming from the Gleaning Program in 1997, the *Raised Bed Garden (RBG)* program was adopted by the Food Bank in 2009 with six partner garden sites, and has now grown to over 125 sites being hosted at locations such as schools, corporations, senior centers and churches. Created to engage community groups in growing organic produce for their local food relief agencies and to broaden the reach and impact of donated produce, program participants learn to grow, tend, harvest, prepare and eat fresh fruits and vegetables.

The impact of continued funding to sustain these programs is significant. We are undertaking new initiatives that address the links between nutrition and optimal health. The Fruits & Vegetable Prescription Program (FV Rx) is a collaboration between our Mobile Market and a local healthcare facility. Doctors treating patients for chronic illness and routine care now perform assessments for food insecurity. Physicians then "prescribe" fresh produce and direct them to the Mobile Market, which is present during assigned clinic hours. The program has been successful to date, but requires assurances that there will be adequate funding for fresh product during and out of season.

Chester County Food Bank is currently researching how it can better utilize its production kitchen onsite at food bank headquarters. A workforce development program is being researched to determine how best to serve the community with job training through the culinary arts, life skills and resume building.

Our ongoing programs require the careful stewardship of the funding and trust placed in our foodbank. We continually seek funding to support a burgeoning need and yet remain fiscally sound. New initiatives require that we carefully work within our operating budget, but persist in our development and fundraising needs. We welcome the opportunity to share our proposed work with those who are committed to the health and well-being of the residents in Chester County.