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: West Chester Public Library
Executive Director Name: Victoria E. Dow
Address: 415 N Church St, West Chester, PA 19380
Executive Director E-mail: vdow@ccls.org
Phone: 610-696-1721
Board of Directors Chair Name: Mary U. Brooks
Website: wcpubliclibrary.org
Primary Contact Name: Victoria E. Dow
Year Incorporated: 1873
Primary Contact E-mail: vdow@ccls.org

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes X No__ Not Sure__
Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes X No__ Not Sure__
X Donor Advised Fund(s)____Fund for Chester County ____Don’t know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:
_X__ Arts, Culture & Humanities ___ Environment/Animal Welfare X Education
___ Health ___ Human Services ___ Religion

Organization Information:
Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): per agreement with Chester County Library System, WCPL’s primary service area includes: Borough of West Chester; West Goshen, Westtown, Thornbury, Birmingham, and East Bradford townships. Any Chester County resident may apply for a library card at WCPL, and/or use any of our services and programs.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: WCPL serves the residents of the above named municipalities, as well as any other Chester County resident. WCPL service population is diverse covering a range of socio-economic groups, ethnicities, and ages, as well as a large population of non-native English speakers. Our direct service area encompasses areas of low income and at risk populations. The library’s direct service area population is 60,000.
The library, open 54 hours per week, hosts 90,000 to 95,000 visits per year and circulates 150,000 items per year.
The library offers programs and materials for children, teens, and adults.

Mission:
West Chester Public Library is a destination for connection, collaboration and enrichment through knowledge and community engagement.

Proposal Summary:
WCPL is seeking funding to purchase three iPads (2017 or 2018 model) in support of its STE(A)M programming for elementary age children, and teens and tweens. Staff already offer STE(A)M activities as part of WCPL’s Teens/Tweens Tuesdays and the weekly Tinker Days that are part of our 10-week Summer Reading Challenge. In addition to the Ozobots WCPL owns, staff also have access to a range of STEM materials to use in our programs through the Chester County Library, including Dash & Dot (robots) and Ozobots. To more effectively use these items, as well as offer basic coding instruction and experience via apps, we would like to add iPads to the library’s program equipment.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:
Annual Budget $500,923

8.46 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

69.0% of budget for program expenses

13 # of Board Volunteers

19.2% of budget for administrative expenses

20 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

11.8% of budget for fundraising expenses

1,944 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources:
Borough of West Chester, donors, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: $990.00
Organization history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

The community has come to know and love West Chester Public Library since it opened in rented rooms in the borough in 1872. Considerable numbers of the greater West Chester community turned out in support at the dedication of the library in its new and permanent home on February 7, 1888 at the corner of Lafayette and Church Streets. The new building would boast many modern features including hot air heat, a second story meeting hall, and electricity! Having advanced into our next century of serving the community, we pledge to continue to be a portal to education, enlightenment and the pleasures of a good book, while offering a comfortable and inviting environment in which to read the latest bestsellers or the classics, to do homework, to surf the web, to attend a workshop or program, or to participate in story-time and other child-friendly events with family.

Programs reflect the diversity in age, gender, and culture of our patrons. West Chester Public Library actively creates and shares programs, not only in our own facility, but also at other community agencies such as The Hickman, the West Chester Area Day Care Center, the West Chester Area School District, and The ARC of Chester County. Doing so helps expand the breadth and depth of what we can offer residents and fortifies collaborative relationships with other community-based agencies in the area. The Summer Reading Challenge, story times for infants and toddlers, Spanish Reading Collection for children, visits from school classes and scout troops, active teen programs including a Teen Advisory Board, and parent-child programs are just a few examples of the many outreach and programming efforts coordinated by WCPL annually.

Funding Request:

Description of key initiatives

WCPL staff began incorporating STE(A)M activities into children’s and teen/tween programming two years ago. The STE(A)M themed programs, especially those offering hands-on experience, have proven successful and very popular with library customers. Parents are looking for STE(A)M activities for their children, and both the children and teens/tweens enjoy the challenge of working with Keva Planks, Snap Circuits, and other similar items.

WCPL has access to programmable STE(A)M materials, especially the Dash & Dot robots, held by the Chester County Library System (CCLS), and available to member libraries to borrow for programs. In addition, WCPL purchased Ozobots through a grant made in 2017. Currently, when staff include these items in children’s and teen/tween programs, attendees must download the corresponding apps to their personal phone or tablet in order to program the robots. This is not ideal, limiting use to those who have a compatible device, have parental permission to download apps onto their device, and want to add the app to their device. Library staff are also limited to using the robots in-house, or using their own personal devices to do the necessary programming when presenting an outreach program. The iPads would also allow staff to download and make available apps that teach basic coding skills, something we cannot currently do.

1 Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics
The addition of three iPads to WCPL’s equipment would ensure that every child and teen/tween attending a STE(A)M program could use programmable items without having to resort to a personal device. Likewise, library staff would be able to take the robots to off-site programs and presentations, making these STE(A)M materials available to children who may not have other opportunities to attend in-house library programs.

**Statement of need and objectives**

The West Chester Public Library has a long-standing commitment to children and youth in its service area. Through the years, staff and volunteers have developed programming, enhanced collections and materials, and added technology that support children’s learning. They work closely with parents, teachers, school districts, and other organizations to ensure that children from all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds have the opportunity to enhance their reading, language, math, and science skills. But even more, the WCPL serves as a catalyst that can spark a passion for learning.

Our youth (children’s and teen/tween) programs are designed to support learning, creativity, and engagement with others within specific age groupings. These programs are free of charge and encourage parents or caregivers to participate as appropriate. Staff work to keep overhead costs for programs low, sourcing volunteer help to present a program (for example, a local teacher offered a basic coding class for children), using shared materials (such as those held by the CCLS), and using donated or low cost materials (such as those used in our summer Crafty Tuesday crafts). However, for occasional important and in-demand programs, staff need direct access to equipment; this need is best served through WCPL-owned items. With the addition of iPads for STE(A)M in-house and outreach programs, participants will be able to learn about and experiment with programming robots like Dash & Dot, and Ozobots, as well as practicing coding skills on stand-alone apps available for the iPad.

Developing STE(A)M skills such as coding and programming a basic robot like the Ozobot has potentially far-reaching benefits for children and teens/tweens. The obvious benefit is that young people gain skills that are directly applicable in today’s job markets. However, as Michael Trucano argued in a World Bank blog post in 2015:

> coding courses can be used to help students develop skills so that they can ‘think algorithmically’ and engage in so-called ‘computational thinking’. According to folks at Carnegie Mellon, which is a hotbed of related activity, “Computational thinking is a way of solving problems, designing systems, and understanding human behavior that draws on concepts fundamental to computer science ... [It] means creating and making use of different levels of abstraction, to understand and solve problems more effectively. Computational thinking means thinking algorithmically and with the ability to apply mathematical concepts such as induction to develop more efficient, fair, and secure solutions.” According to such folks, ‘learning to code’ is really about developing skills, approaches and familiarity with tools that help enable the use of ‘coding to learn’. ‘Coding’ isn’t something just for programmers and computer scientists, in other words, but of relevance to *all* learners, and is potentially relevant to *all* subjects taught in school.²

Offering children and teens/tweens opportunities to experiment with programming and coding at the library allows them to discover and develop the problem solving and design skills mentioned above.

**Organizational impact**

This grant will assist WCPL in presenting STE(A)M programs that any child or teen/tween can participate in, whether they have access to smart devices, are able to visit the library, or need staff to come to them through an outreach program. With the addition of three iPads, our STE(A)M programs

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will be self-contained and fully portable. In addition, staff will be able to offer a weekly coding session for teens/tweens, which our Teen Advisory Board has requested.

As one of our TAB members put it:

Giving the library iPads would be great for the growing teen programs, and would especially give teens a chance to help create, plan, and participate in events that interest us and could create opportunities for our futures. By giving us an opportunity to grow our coding skills, the library will give teens one of the most important skills for the fastest growing career track.

**Why fund this now?**
Staff have been successful up to this point in planning and carrying out STE(A)M programs for children and teens featuring robots using their own phones and tablets. However, in order to increase the effectiveness of these programs both in-house and through outreach, we need access to iPads. The tablets will allow any participant in WCPL’s programs to try their hand at programming and coding without having to resort to a personal device. The addition of three iPads will level the playing field for all participants in our robotics and coding based programs.

**How impact and results will be demonstrated:**

Short-term result (within three months):

- Of children and teens/tweens participating in a robotics or coding themed programs:
  - 80% will report better understanding the basic concepts involved in programming or coding
  - 60% will express an interest in returning for another programming or coding session

Within the first year after implementation of the iPads we anticipate the following outcome:

- Children and teens/tweens regularly participating in STE(A)M programs using the iPads will reap long-term benefits from the program
  - 60% of children regularly participating in WCPL STE(A)M programs featuring programmable robots or coding will state that they understand the thought processes involved in these skills

NB – WCPL Board of Trustees is currently working on a 2019-2021 Strategic Plan in conjunction with the Library Director and staff.