

## 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.
- 99% of the grants issued by the Community Foundation are made possible through the generosity of the Fund Advisors who created donor advised funds. \$2.2+ million is granted annually to nonprofits in Chester County and beyond.
- 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
  - Operations and Technology
  - 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 and cannot be individuals

- **E-mail proposals to [grants@chescocf.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.chescocf.org)

**Date 10/23/2018**

### **Contact Information**

Organization Name: YoungMoms

Executive Director Name: Linda Mercner

Address: P.O. Box 376, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Executive Director E-mail: [Linda.mercner@youngmomscommunity.com](mailto:Linda.mercner@youngmomscommunity.com)

Phone: 855-964-666

Board of Directors Chair Name: Molly Henry

Website: [www.youngmomscommunity.com](http://www.youngmomscommunity.com)

Primary Contact Name: Linda Mercner

Year Incorporated: July 2015

Primary Contact E-mail: [Linda.mercner@youngmomscommunity.com](mailto:Linda.mercner@youngmomscommunity.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):

YoungMoms serves young mothers that reside in Southern Chester County (Kennett Square, Avongrove and Oxford Area School district).

### **Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:**

YoungMoms serves pregnant and parenting young women living in Southern Chester County, PA, who enter the program between the ages of 14 and 21 years old. Many deal with a myriad of issues including domestic violence, poverty, language barriers, depression, unemployment, incomplete schooling, homelessness, and a general lack of options and opportunities. In addition to the many individual challenges facing the youth in our program, teen mothers are a significantly high-risk population. Teen moms are more likely to drop out of school, and less than 40% obtain a high school diploma. Teen mothers are much more likely to live in poverty than their non parenting counterparts, with over 80% of them relying on welfare within the first few years of giving birth. Teenage moms are more likely to experience depression, substance abuse, and abusive relationships than their non-parenting peers. Children of teen mothers are also a high-risk population. They are more likely to receive inadequate prenatal care, be born prematurely, face significant physical and developmental delays, do poorly in school, be at risk of child abuse, and live in poverty than those children born to adult mothers.

We anticipate that during 2019 we will directly serve 65 young moms, and indirectly serve approximately 85 children and 12 young dads.

**Mission:**

The mission of YoungMoms is to inspire and equip young moms to build thriving futures for themselves and their families.

**Proposal Summary:**

A generous grant of \$5,000 General Operating funds from the Chester County Community Foundation.

As the reputation of our program grows, we are receiving an increasing number of client referrals from program participants, the Chester County Health Department, the local school districts and other organizations. A donation of \$5,000 from the Chester County Community Foundation would be instrumental in our ability to expand our program and positively impact an increased number of pregnant and parenting young women.

**If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:**

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

**Annual Budget \$286,675.00.**

80 % of budget for program expenses  
10 % of budget for administrative expenses  
10 % of budget for fundraising expenses  
*100 % total*

3.5 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
9 # of Board Volunteers  
123 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
1800 # of Volunteer Hours

**Top 3-5 funding sources:**

United Way Southern Chester County \$29,380  
Connelly Foundation \$20,000  
Marshall Reynolds Foundation \$15,000

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$5,000.00**

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

The mission of YoungMoms is to inspire and equip young moms to build thriving futures for themselves and their families. YoungMoms is a comprehensive support program that provides the academic, employment, relational, and parenting support pregnant and parenting young women need to improve their lives and those of their children. Over the last eight years, YoungMoms has helped more than 160 teen moms stay in high school, pursue college education or vocational training, gain parenting and other life skills, and connect with community resources.

### Goals:

YoungMoms utilizes a combination of case management services, one-to-one mentoring, and large group gatherings to achieve our mission. Our goal is that each participant will:

**Achieve academic and employment goals:** We provide support to our young moms to complete high school, attain their GED, or enter training, certification and degree programs. We assist them in developing resume writing, job search and interviewing skills. We network with area businesses to learn about job opportunities and then make appropriate client connections. **Gain life and parenting skills:** Staff and volunteers provide ongoing life skills instruction in areas such as healthy relationships and financial responsibility and management. We teach our young moms effective communication, conflict resolution, decision-making and time management skills. YoungMoms uses the evidence-based Parents as Teachers "Partnering with Teen Parents" curriculum as the bases of our parenting support. YoungMoms provides sexual health and reproduction educational materials, and connects participants to reproductive and medical care. **Grow is self esteem and feel part of a community of support:** One of the primary challenges facing young mothers is isolation from peers and from the community at large – a leading cause of depression and substance abuse. YoungMoms holds monthly dinners and workshops where teen moms have an opportunity to develop relationships with peers in similar life circumstances and with positive adult-role models. Many of our young moms are matched to a trained volunteer mentor. Recent workshop topics offered: effective discipline strategies, understanding credit and financing and the basics of nutrition.

Currently 81% of our 43 participants are employed and/or enrolled in school or training programs. In recent surveys, 100% of YoungMoms participants reported both that they learned the importance of setting goals and that they were able to achieve goals with the help provided by YoungMoms.

On our annual client survey, **96% of participants responded that they had achieved goals because of the help of YoungMoms, 100% responded that they believe they are a better parent because of the support provided by YoungMoms, and 100% said they feel part of a community of support at YoungMoms.** Our young moms have shared...

- *"YoungMoms helped me find transportation – picking me up from home, taking me to daycare and from daycare to high school. That was my biggest, biggest help because I did finish high school. The program gives you support that you can't find somewhere else."* Jaque
- *"When I wasn't in YoungMoms I felt that my future was basically over. But YoungMoms helped me realize that even with a child and how young I am that I can achieve what I would like to do in life. It's really helped."* Deborah
- *"YoungMoms really is the biggest support I've had since I became a young mom. Honestly, I feel that I would never have gotten to the point where I am today without YoungMoms."*

YoungMoms has become an **essential resource** that brings a sense of confidence and optimism to young mothers and empowers them to break the underlying cycles of poverty, abuse, and low self-esteem that often influence teen pregnancy. Our holistic approach provides participants with the support and resources necessary to help them gain control of their lives, make healthy personal decisions, attain financial stability, and improve their lives and the lives of their children. Young women remain in the program between two and four years, allowing us to assist them in overcoming obstacles which might normally derail their progress in achieving goals. This long-term investment is what makes YoungMoms unique and distinct. There is no similarly individualized and comprehensive support program in our community that provides the combination of case management support, life skills instruction, one-to-one mentoring, and community building activities. As YoungMoms participants are empowered to set and achieve their goals they are able to alleviate reliance on public assistance, enabling them to contribute more positively to the workforce and our community. Furthermore, our program has a rippling effect on our client's children. Each child gains an improved quality of life and assurance of a safe, healthy and prosperous future.

### Specific needs and issues to be addressed:

YoungMoms serves pregnant and parenting young women who enter the program between the ages of 14 and 21 years old and reside in Southern Chester County, PA. Many of our clients face huge challenges including: incomplete education, unemployment, housing instability, domestic violence, isolation, lack of health care, and depression. Nationally, less than 40% of teen mothers finish

high school and fewer than 2% have graduated college by the time they are 30. Teen moms are also more likely to experience depression, substance abuse, and abusive relationships than their non-parenting peers. YoungMoms is working to change these statistics in our local community. We focus heavily on education – both the completion of high school, training and degree programs, and the acquisition and development of a variety of life skills, including financial management, decision-making, time management and effective communication. We work with each young mom to attain employment and teach job search, resume writing and interviewing skills. Finally, we equip our young moms with skills and resources to attain parenting goals. In addition to parenting support, materials, and modeling provided by staff and mentors, we provide parenting training programs addressing a variety of topics including: discipline techniques, use of music in language development, handling temper tantrums & challenging behaviors, car seat safety & creating a safe home environment.

### **How will this impact be measured?**

We evaluate the effectiveness of our program by monitoring and analyzing attendance at YoungMoms events and activities, goal achievement, academic and vocational attainment, yearly client surveys, and pre/post program surveys. We utilize a cloud-based data management system (Apricot) to track client, volunteer, donor and foundation activity and design and generate outcome reports on a multitude of programming areas.

### **Funding Request:**

As the reputation of our program grows, we are receiving an increasing number of client referrals from program participants, the Chester County Health Department, the local school districts and other organizations. A donation of \$5,000 from the Chester County Community Foundation would be instrumental in our ability to expand our program and positively impact an increased number of pregnant and parenting young women.

Specifically, funding would be use to:

- Provide individualized support, advocacy, and case management services to participants
- Provide a comprehensive post-secondary education plan for participants, including connecting them to local colleges, certification and training programs
- Provide support with employment opportunities, including training in job search, resume writing, and interview skills
- Provide life skills training in parenting, budgeting, nutrition, and other areas
- Train, match and provide ongoing support to mentors as they encourage and provide practical assistance to their young mom

In addition, funding would allow us to continue to develop organizational policies & procedures, volunteer training programs, and internal systems to ensure sustainability.

### **Include a description of the expected activities; timeline and costs to implement the initiative. (Timeline is on-going)** **The following key activities support our goals, helping YoungMoms fulfill its mission:**

- **Case Management:** When young women first enter our program, a comprehensive assessment is completed by YoungMoms staff. Urgent needs, such as hunger, homelessness, domestic violence and suicide risk are addressed immediately, and connections are made to appropriate supportive services. We work with each young mom to develop academic, employment, parenting and relational goals; and to create a plan to achieve them. We connect our young moms with area resources, provide educational and vocational assistance, life skills training, and parenting education and development.
- **Mentoring:** Participants are matched with a trained adult female mentor, who provides encouragement and life skills instruction to their mentee, as well as practical help with transportation and tutoring.
- **Monthly Club Dinners/Workshops:** Participants receive enrichment education in multiple life areas and have the opportunity to build relationships with peers in similar life situations. Clubs are held monthly in both Kennett Square and (as of Sept. 2017) Oxford. Supplemental workshops and trainings are offered as needed. For example, many of our young moms suffered significant adverse childhood experiences, which coupled with their current socioeconomic and relational challenges, create high levels of stress and anxiety. In response, we partnered with a local counselor to offer a series of group counseling workshops in winter 2018 designed to equip participants with skills to manage stress/anxiety, negotiate conflicts, communicate effectively, and gain self-esteem. Because of the success of those workshops, we will offer 10 additional group counseling sessions in fall 2018 and winter 2019.
- **YoungDads Program:** We observed that for those clients who are living with a partner or father of the child, progress toward their goal achievement is slowed or halted if their partner is not provided with a similar opportunity for support. In response, we initiated a YoungDads program, which is designed to empower these young men to reach their potential as men and fathers. Participants meet monthly with a core group of volunteers who encourage and equip them to improve parenting skills, navigate work/life balance, and make wise relational and life decisions.

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

YoungMoms client base has grown tremendously over the past 8 years. This number has grown steadily over the past couple of years and we expect escalated growth as we continue to offer these life-changing services and programs. YoungMoms projects serving close to 65 young mothers and their 85+ children in 2019, making expanded funding from our community partners a growing necessity. In addition, the majority of participants are Latino immigrants or first-generation Mexican-Americans whose parents work long hours in low-wage jobs and lack the English skills and resources necessary to help their pregnant and parenting daughter navigate complex educational and social service systems.

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

The impact and results will be demonstrated through the following:

- Number of young moms actively engaged in the program, participating in YoungMoms activities and events, and establishing and working to achieve goals
- Number of young moms who complete their education and/or obtain stable employment and who acquire parenting and other essential life skills.
- Continuation and expansion of programs and services provided, including case management services, one-to-one mentoring, and events/activities and;
- Number of actively engaged volunteer and mentors.

The impact of our program will be demonstrated through enhancing services to our clients and continuing on a sustainable trajectory of expansion. Local schools, governments, citizens, and organizations rely on YoungMoms to guide its pregnant and parenting teens to financial independence, healthy family lives and vibrant participation in the community.