

## I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

### Contact Information

Organization Name: Chester County Fund for Women and Girls  
Address: 113 E. Evans Street  
Matlack Building, Ste. A  
West Chester, PA 19380  
Phone: (484) 356-0940  
Website: [www.ccwomenandgirls.org](http://www.ccwomenandgirls.org)  
Year Incorporated: 1996  
Executive Director Name: Michelle Legaspi Sanchez  
Executive Director E-mail: michelle@ccfwg.org  
Board of Directors Chair Name: Tricia Lefkof  
Primary Contact Name: Cynthia Jaros  
Primary Contact E-mail: Cjaros@ccfwg.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**

All of Chester County

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

In our 2017 Fiscal Year, we served over 9,000 Chester County community members.

Approximately 90% of these constituents were women and girls. These services include, but are not limited to, transitional housing, job training and other services for homeless women and their families; prenatal care and reproductive health services; dental care for uninsured and underinsured populations; and language skills for recent immigrants.

Additionally, throughout the past fiscal year, more than 350 people have participated in the Fund’s educational opportunities, which include attending our educational Women Talk Series, Grants Allocation Committees, Champions of Change Breakfast, and attending other educational presentations.

**Mission:**

The Fund leads and unites the community through philanthropy and advocacy to ensure that women and girls have resources and opportunities to thrive.

**Proposal Summary:**

The Chester County Fund for Women and Girls (CCFWG) philanthropic leadership program, the Girls Advisory Board (GAB), is designed to empower high school girls in grades 10-12 with the network, resources and confidence to facilitate positive social change in the lives of women, girls and their families. By utilizing the transformative power of philanthropy and community service to instill important leadership qualities in these young women, we are empowering tomorrow’s leaders to create positive social change today.

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

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

**Annual Budget** \$ 659,870

64%	of budget for program expenses
12%	of budget for administrative expenses
24%	of budget for fundraising expenses
<hr/>	
100 %	Total
3.5	of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
16	of Board Volunteers
75	of Active Non-Board Volunteers
est. 1,500/yr	of Volunteer Hours

**Top 3-5 funding sources:**

1. Russell Duane Estate
2. Barbara Jordan
3. Claneil Foundation
4. Lily Foundation
5. Dircks Foundation

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:**

CCFWG humbly requests grants of \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00 in support of our nationally recognized girls' grantmaking program, the Girls Advisory Board (GAB).

# CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

### History, Goals and Distinctiveness

The Chester County Fund for Women and Girls (CCFWG) is dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls and thereby the lives of all members of the Chester County community, through education, grantmaking and community collaboration. Established in 1996, the Fund is the first endowment-based women's fund in the state of Pennsylvania, and one of only 145 women's funds in the world dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls.

Over the past twenty years, the CCFWG has diligently worked to become a trusted leader in addressing the specific challenges and issues facing women and girls in our communities. It is our mission to lead and unite the community through philanthropy and advocacy to ensure that women and girls have resources and opportunities to thrive. We have awarded \$3.1 million in grants to 73 organizations working across Chester County to enhance their work ability to create healthy and vibrant futures for women and girls at the grassroots level.

We embrace the challenge to grow our capacity and grantmaking capability so we may tackle deep and persisting needs within our county. By bringing together and supporting individuals and organizations, we are able to respond to the vital needs and issues affecting women, girls and their families in Chester County. Through our grantmaking and other initiatives, including our Girls Advisory Board (GAB) Program and Community Education programs, we address four community-identified priorities for women and girls: core needs, economic opportunity, health and wellness and challenging inequality.

Our philanthropic and educational programs promote a shared commitment to the well-being and self-determination of women and girls. We are a leading connector and convener of resources, ideas, people and information, bringing together diverse populations around a shared commitment to the well-being and self-determination of women and girls.

### Key Achievements

- 1996 - Established the first endowment-based women's foundation in Pennsylvania, utilizing a unique grant-making model in that funding decisions are made by a group of diverse individuals connected to Chester County. This model, our Grants Allocation Committee (GAC), by consensus, grants money to organizations that improve the lives of women and girls and ensures that CCFWG is addressing the needs of our county through this inclusive and community oriented process.
- 2005, 2010 & 2016 – CCFWG releases our first Blueprint Report: a comprehensive compilation and original analysis of existing and newly collected data from local, state and national resources, with a unique focus on women and girls. The report was updated in 2010 and again in 2016. Our Blueprint Report remains the only gender-specific research and awareness project in Chester County, specific to women and girls in Chester County.  
Our Blueprint Report: [www.ccfwg.org/research](http://www.ccfwg.org/research)
- To date - More than 140 girls from 27 different Chester County area high schools have passed through our GAB, one of only a dozen philanthropic leadership development programs nationwide designed exclusively for teenage girls. Collectively, our GAB classes have awarded over 80 grants totaling more than \$280,000
- To date - we have awarded over 390 grants that address needs and challenges facing women, girls,

their families and/or the nonprofit agencies who serve them, totaling more than \$3.1 million in grant awards to 73 Chester County agencies.

- We have established ourselves as the leader of women's issues in and around Chester County. We are an advocate for women and girls and serve as a hub of ideas, organizations and community members who wish to provide opportunities and resources for women and girls in our region.
- 2012 - GAB co-hosted the first National Girls Grant Making Conference with Women's Funding Network
- 2015 - Named the Mosteller Community Service Award winner by the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce.
- 2016-2018 - Named the Community Outreach Partner for the Chester County Women's Business Connection (WBC).

## 2. Funding Request

### Description of Key Initiatives:

Since 2005, more than 140 young women have participated in GAB to collectively distribute over \$280,000 to programs that aim to improve the lives of girls and young women in the county. GAB utilizes a comprehensive philanthropy-based leadership curriculum to empower teenage girls in Chester County. The in-depth and life-changing experiences reported by our high school age participants are remarkable. As they engage in strategic grantmaking, they learn about needs affecting others, how to work collaboratively, with compassion and through consensus. An unprecedented record number of 65 applicants were interviewed this summer for our 15<sup>th</sup> Class. In turn, 30 girls will participate and 2<sup>nd</sup> year class members will have the opportunity for placement in an Entrepreneurship or Civic Engagement track based on their interests and leadership skills.

Produced in conjunction with West Chester University, *The Blueprint Report: Leveraging Progress*, is an objective and comprehensive assessment of the status of women and girls in Chester County. This 3<sup>rd</sup> edition provides critical data across seven priority areas, informs our grantmaking and also presents steps to progress forward so that our community can be proactive in making life better for all women in Chester County. A major theme in our Blueprint Report is the gender disparity in the occurrence of mental health conditions. CCFWG is committed to educating the community on these findings and using them to inform our grantmaking.

Report findings continue to be the foundation for ongoing educational programs, grantmaking initiatives and existing communication efforts. We also continue to partner with corporations and organizations to disseminate the Report's findings to the community at large with a focus on strengthening our role as a catalyst for action. The goal behind these presentations is to bring the data and trends to the forefront in order to build the community's awareness around issues impacting women and girls and to inform conversations and planning. For example, a group of African American women leaders formed and continue to meet on issues revealed in the Report. We keep our finger on the pulse of this community initiative and others that arise from the Blueprint and support them.

Both GAC and GAB serve as national models for community led altruism and leadership development. These philanthropic programs convene community volunteers and collaboratively create sustainable change in the lives of women and girls to ultimately make our community stronger.

Need to be addressed:

GAB, Chester County's only philanthropic leadership development program developed exclusively for teenage girls, is an opportunity for young women to realize their potential and equip themselves with the tools and confidence to use it through creating sustainable change. Our program is designed to foster self-discovery, personal transformation and inner strength among participants as they collectively work to address societal issues that impact them. Many of the girls who enter GAB, enter with little to no experience about philanthropy or grantmaking, but all know they want to do something to improve the lives of their neighbors, families and peers. Many of the girls identify issues that they experience in their daily lives, either directly or through their peers, such as bullying, peer pressure, mental health and violence and safety as issues they want to address through their GAB experience. It's no wonder these issues on these teenage girls' minds, according to our own 2016 Blueprint Report:

- 1 in 4 girls will experience bullying.
- Rates of anxiety disorders are 2-3 times higher in women than in men and women are two times more likely to suffer from major depression than men.
- 25% of women report being raped or physically assaulted by an intimate partner.

By working as a team, these young women are able to share their perspectives and learn and grow from one another in a supportive, yet challenging environment. Not only do we educate GAB girls about the positive impact of philanthropy on our communities, but we provide them the resources, mentorships and education to become active community leaders at an age when most would discount their abilities to facilitate meaningful and significant change; creating socially conscious leaders of tomorrow by fostering inter and intra-personal transformation today.

Why it is important to fund this now:

Support for GAB now enables us to bring our nationally-recognized program to a new audience of young women seeking an opportunity to grow. The 2019 GAB class, our 15th class, will bring a diverse group of girls together from a wide range of backgrounds, experiences and interests. It is important to engage teenage girls at this pivotal moment, as they develop into young adults and eventually, the next generation that will be at the helm of business, industry and culture. We need to empower our teenage population that they can be leaders and innovators and have the resources and network to change such damaging statistics that impact the health and well-being of women and girls. This is exactly what CCFWG's GAB program aims to do.

### **3. How impact and results will be demonstrated**

To measure progress of the program, the Executive Director will communicate regularly with the GAB Coordinator to ensure the curriculum is followed. Together, they will integrate input from guest presenters and make any modifications as needed. At the end of the program, GAB members will participate in exit interviews which detail positive and challenging aspects of their experience. Staff will review, share, and analyze results with the GAB Planning Committee and make recommendations for the future. In addition, organizations that are selected for funding by GAB in their chosen priority areas will submit a report at the end of the grant period, documenting the impact of the funds given to them.

On behalf of all of us at CCFWG and the GAB girls, thank you for your consideration to support our Girls Advisory Board program.