

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Kennett Area Community Service
 Address: 136 West Cedar Street
 Phone: (610) 925-3556 Website: www.KACSONline.net

Date: March 28, 2019

Executive Director/Contact Name: Melanie Weiler
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 Year Incorporated: 1993

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

KACS Food Cupboard service area includes three school districts: Kennett Consolidated, Unionville-Chadds Ford & Avon Grove. Emergency Assistance & Resource Building programs service the entire Southern Chester County region.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

KACS serves households with an income maximum of 200% of the Federal Poverty Line which is \$50,400 for a family of four. The Kennett Food Cupboard served 2,467 unduplicated individuals with a monthly average of 1,230 individuals and 395 families. Those served were: Seniors Citizens 8%, Adults 46%, Children 46%. 54% are Hispanic, 38% Caucasian and 8% African American. An additional 260 students receive assistance in the Summer Food Program. The Emergency Assistance Program provided financial assistance payments to 799 unduplicated individuals (287 families). Additional services are delivered with in-house partnerships as well as laundry and bathing facilities for the homeless. KACS served 250 additional households without providing financial assistance. 105 of these households were literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. Those served were Seniors 5%, Adults 48%, Children 47%. 72% were Hispanic, 19% Caucasian and 9% African American.

Mission: Strengthening the community in Southern Chester County through food, housing and crisis services. We envision a community without poverty where everyone can live well.

Proposal Summary: We are requesting support for direct service funding that will reduce hunger and emergency needs in our community through the Kennett Food Cupboard and/or the Emergency Assistance Program.

Annual Budget \$ <u>1,660,584</u>	<u>5</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>92.0</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>10</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>6.0</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>75</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>2.0</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>16,186</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<u>100</u> % total	

Top 3-5 funding sources: United Way of Southern Chester County; Chester County Community Foundation; Chester County Department of Community Development; Individual Donations; Church Contributions

Grant Amount Requested from CCCF: \$ 25,000

We are requesting a \$25,000 grant that can be broken down as follows:

KACS	Food Cupboard	Emergency Assistance	Number of families supported
Food Purchased	\$500-\$7,000		7-80
Emergency Assistance for Families		\$500-\$18,000	1-50

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

Kennett Area Community Service (KACS) began in 1954, when a group of Kennett Square citizens joined to deliver holiday food baskets to local families in need. This effort was led by Bill Buffington, who began offering food assistance on a regular basis. After three decades, it became clear that food insecurity was only one area of need for the local families. Bill began providing heating oil assistance to warm the homes of the families he grew to know well. The Emergency Assistance program was born and has now grown to encompass housing stability services offering rent and utility financial assistance as well as crisis intervention for local families experiencing an emergency.

The Emergency Assistance program has evolved to an 8-tier program, providing everything from brief interventions and advocacy to long-term Housing Stability to provide wrap-around service to the homeless who were placed in permanent housing to prevent returns to homelessness. In 2018, a no-interest Emergency Loan program was added to expand into emergency auto repairs and empowerment to those experiencing temporary need. KACS no longer considers any case 'closed' as long-term supportive relationships are needed to support families and individuals seeking stability and economic mobility. The team of four case managers find creative solutions to stabilize and financial assistance is utilized only if necessary for rent, utilities and emergency travel expenses. Additionally, in June 2016, KACS opened the Resource Center to provide client-centered case management space, additional support of the homeless, and new partnerships to better serve KACS participants and the greater Kennett Square community.

The third program, Resource Building, started in 2015 and dramatically changed how KACS supports families. KACS implemented a nationally recognized strengths-based framework (based on the book *Bridges Out of Poverty*) aimed at reducing local poverty and building long-term sustainability for participants. 'Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World' classes are delivered to individuals in generational poverty to assist them in building goal plans to increase resources, recognize barriers and build a better quality of life. To date, KACS has graduated 63 individuals and early outcomes are strong. These graduates are informing the community of barriers and shaping programs through the community collective impact group called the Southern Chester County Opportunity Network. KACS provides leadership to the Opportunity Network planning team as well as one of the sub-committees – the Housing Discovery team.

KACS is the only organization of its kind in the Kennett Area providing three primary programs of service – The Food Cupboard, Emergency Assistance Program and Resource Building. Through these core programs, KACS prevents over 3,000 individuals from homelessness or hunger. And we are leading efforts to reduce poverty utilizing a regional Collective Impact model.

2. Funding request

Description of key initiatives and activities to implement the initiative.

The Food Cupboard, the 3rd largest in Chester County, provides nutritious supplemental grocery items such as meat, dairy, eggs, fresh produce, bread, grains and canned fruits and vegetables to food insecure families and individuals. The program offers a week's supply of nutritious food each month to 395 families, including food deliveries for seniors as well as continuing our traditional events at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Families and individuals come to the Food Cupboard an average of 6 times throughout the year. The food program evolved in 2014, maintaining a no-barrier emergency food program and adding the relationship driven, Healthy Options program that provides additional high-quality nutrition while capturing

expanded information on 93% of Food Cupboard participants. The program now includes nutrition education, a 9- bed raised garden program and comprehensive community volunteer program. With support, we will continue to provide these quality services and expand access to two visits per month, in addition to 'Market Style' home delivery to low-income housing complexes and the addition of weekend hours.

The Emergency Assistance Program has moved to a progressive engagement model, providing multiple services and advocacy to first stabilize the household, then support services to prevent future crisis. Financial assistance may be granted to prevent eviction, prevent utility shut offs or restore utilities, pay for essential transportation, and other urgent needs. Support of this program allows for the continuation of these activities, funds to provide financial assistance and also the launch of a Master Leasing program.

In 2018, 799 individuals received financial assistance to pay rent or utilities in the effort to prevent homelessness or inhumane living conditions. Another 250 people received case management services and service referrals to improve their stability and over 100 homeless individuals received in depth case management and financial assistance to resolve their situation. In the upcoming year, a Master Leasing program will be piloted to deepen the effectiveness of the rapid rehousing program to a true Housing First model in the region.

Specific needs and issues to be addressed

Funding is needed for the Kennett Food Cupboard and Emergency Assistance Program. Both programs integrate case management and resource development to prevent further hunger and homelessness. Locally, the loss of affordable housing units and gentrification has placed an increasing burden on a vulnerable population, creating instability in housing and shortfalls in family's food budgets.

The Kennett Square area currently has the largest population of unsheltered homeless. To support these individuals with the goal of permanent housing and reliable food sources, KACS requires financial support and close collaborations with the local community. And homelessness prevention activities must continue to minimize crisis and make the most efficient use of resources. Brief rental assistance before eviction paired with case management services will prevent further increase of unsheltered in the region.

Organizational impact if initiative is undertaken

Through this grant, KACS will assist up to 60 families with a 7-day supply of nutritious food to eliminate hunger in our area. Up to 50 households may also receive emergency financial assistance and case management so KACS can continue to provide a 'Housing First' rapid rehousing program to the homeless. This may include prevention activities to help those at heightened risk of becoming homeless or losing electricity, water or heat. This is essential for families and individuals to minimize crisis, secure resources and build long term sustainability. Through funding, we can continue to meet the current needs in the community and reduce future need for services in the region.

In the Food Cupboard, funds are needed to maintain quality nutrition through year-round bulk purchasing and inventory control. While the community provides an ample quantity of shelf stable items, particularly around the holiday season and garden items in the summer, purchasing is needed to maintain perishable items like proteins, dairy, fruits and more. Funding ensures a consistent food source to help families function at their best and increase their chances of success.

The Emergency Assistance Program meets individual needs and impacts hundreds of families. Funding will allow KACS to continue to work with clients to find sustainable housing and utility options that will keep families stable well beyond the conclusion of services.

Why it is important to fund this now

KACS takes a proactive approach to end homelessness and food insecurity and stem the tide of increasing need in the Southern Chester County community. The increasing cost of living places pressure on families working low wage part-time jobs. There is also a growing number of seniors reliant on only Social Security to survive. Self-sufficiency standards for families are now 300% of the Federal Poverty Level in Southern Chester County. This has become clear in the growing population of unsheltered homeless in our area. Local households in crisis need food, housing and advocates in finding and securing resources.

How impact and results will be demonstrated

Goals for 2019-20 programs are as follows:

- Provide consistent, quality nutrition to families and maintain monthly inventory for a 7-day supply for families each month
- Case management to provide sustainable results with a goal that 50% of families will not return for additional emergency financial assistance for 12 months or longer.
- Housing or utilities to be maintained by 180 days or longer for 95% of clients; 85% after 1 year.
- Reduction of unsheltered homeless population