

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: 8/16/19

Contact Information

Organization Name: **Meals on Wheels of Chester County (MOWCC)** Director Name: **Jeani D. Purcell**
Address: **404 Willowbrook Lane, West Chester, PA 19382** Director E-mail: **meals@mowcc.org**
Phone: **610-430-8500** Board of Directors Chair Name: **Alan Freyer**
Website: **www.mowcc.org** Primary Contact Name: **Jeani Purcell**
Year Incorporated: **1991** Primary Contact E-mail: **meals@mowcc.org**
FEIN: **23-2636379**

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):

MOWCC serves 85% of Chester County. The main line areas of the county (Devon, Paoli, Berwyn) are served by the Main Line Meals on Wheels organization.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

Our typical client is elderly and has a degenerative medical/physical condition and lives on a very limited income with little family support. We serve over 700 homebound clients each year.

Mission:

To enhance the well-being of elderly adults who are homebound by providing nutritious meals and friendly visits to help them live independently and stay healthy in their own homes.

Proposal Summary:

MOWCC respectfully requests a grant of \$5,000 to purchase hot, nutritious meals for homebound clients served by our West Chester Chapter of Meals on Wheels.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

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

Annual Budget \$ 517,481.00 5 # of Part-Time Paid Staff
85 % of budget for program expenses 15 # of Board Volunteers
12 % of budget for administrative expenses 529 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
3 % of budget for fundraising expenses 16,100 # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Chester County Dept of Aging, Wyss Foundation, Office of Long-Term Living Waiver Program, W.W. Smith Charitable Trust, Springbank Foundation.

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

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

HISTORY

The first Meals on Wheels program in the U.S. began in Philadelphia in 1954. The Chester County program delivered its first meal in 1971 in the Borough of West Chester. Volunteers from area churches organized the program and delivered meals provided by the Chester County Hospital.

The program spread throughout the county and Meals on Wheels of Chester County (MOWCC) was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1991. Although West Chester was our first chapter, we have grown to include 21 chapters stretching across the county. The chapters operate independently with support, coordination and administration from the Main Office in West Chester, PA. Meals are purchased from 13 different local food providers and delivered to the homes of our clients by 527 compassionate, dedicated MOWCC volunteers at lunchtime Monday through Friday.

GOALS

Our goals for our MOWCC chapters in Chester County are to:

- continue to deliver meals to homebound seniors in need
- provide a "daily check" on our clients
- obtain the necessary funding to purchase meals for homebound residents who are financially unable to donate toward the cost of their daily meals
- raise community awareness of (and support for) the issue of senior hunger and food insecurity in Chester County.

We support the vision of Meals on Wheels America, "An America in which all seniors live nourished lives with independence and dignity." We are addressing the issue of senior hunger and isolation in Chester County by providing hot, nourishing meals for our homebound neighbors.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

For our fiscal year that ended 6/30/18, MOWCC had the following service statistics:

Total meals served:	81,648
Meals served to individuals over 60 years of age:	77,285
Total individuals served:	716 (95% over 60 years old)
Number of volunteers:	527
Number of volunteer hours:	16,100
Number of miles driven by volunteers:	145,854 (our volunteers drive their own vehicles to deliver meals)
The total cost of food was:	\$318,605
Total Client Donations:	\$147,812 (only 46% of food expenses)

DISTINCTIVENESS

We are the only program in Chester County that delivers a nutritious, hot meal Monday through Friday directly to our clients' homes. Through our annual client surveys, we recently learned that 86% of the people we serve think that Meals on Wheels improves their quality of life. 85% of our clients said that

Meals on Wheels helps them remain living in their own homes where they prefer to be. Also, 78% of the people we serve said that Meals on Wheels helps them eat healthier foods.

2. Funding request

DESCRIPTION OF KEY INITIATIVES

Our vision is to operate as a sustainable organization providing meal delivery to homebound seniors or adults with disabilities in support of their personal independence. This grant request seeks assistance in funding meal costs for our West Chester borough chapter. All funds received from the Chester County Foundation will be used to pay for the hot meals that are delivered to our clients in the West Chester borough who do not have the financial means to make a donation to help pay for their meals. We have seen the average donation by clients drop significantly in recent years. For the fiscal year that ended 6/30/18, our volunteers delivered 5,025 meals to homebound clients in West Chester. Client donations were approximately 35% of food cost leaving the chapter with a deficit of \$6,718 which was covered by MOWCC emergency reserve funds. Meal delivery continues despite consistent annual losses in this area. We are actively seeking additional funding from the community to cover future costs.

SPECIFIC NEEDS AND ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

The overall goal of our organization is to improve or maintain the health of homebound individuals by providing nutritious meals, a daily check and social contact to enable these individuals to remain in their homes as long as possible. Studies show that seniors want to remain in their own homes, and in-home services, such as Meals on Wheels, help them remain there with the assurance they are receiving healthy meals. The meals that we provide contain 1/3 of the Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) of nutrients established by the Institute of Medicine and monitored by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA). The benefits of healthy eating include increased mental acuteness, resistance to illness and disease, higher energy levels, faster recuperation times, and better management of chronic health problems.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO FUND THIS PROJECT NOW

Life expectancy for individuals is at an all-time high. Living longer can mean more years spent in struggles that accompany old age. Many seniors and other homebound individuals wish to remain living in their own homes, but have limited family support and limited financial means. Something as basic as a daily meal is a challenge for many; these are the individuals that we strive to help. Good nutrition is an important component of the healthy aging process. Meals that are delivered by our volunteers ensure that this basic need is met for some of Chester County's most vulnerable residents.

HOW IMPACT AND RESULTS WILL BE DEMONSTRATED

The MOWCC main office collects statistics from each chapter monthly regarding the number of clients served, number of meals, cost of meals, donations collected and determines which chapters need to actively seek help from the community to pay for the meals required. Since West Chester was the first chapter started in 1971, it held a significant amount of reserves. Unfortunately, that store of funds has been depleted over the years as the client base in the borough is predominately low-income. The West Chester Chapter continues to be one of our larger chapters in the county and its client base depends on our service to provide this essential staple.

Our membership with Meals on Wheels America gives us access to national studies on the benefits of home-delivered meals, including how nutrition impacts health, saves tax dollars, and provides comfort and security to both clients and family members. It is less expensive to provide a year's worth of lunches Monday through Friday (approximately \$1,000 in Chester County for one person) than it is to pay for a night in the hospital or several days in a nursing home. The health and psychological benefits associated with proper nutrition and home-delivered meals include:

- increased mental acuteness
- resistance to illness and disease
- higher energy levels
- faster recuperation times
- better management of chronic health problems
- diminished feelings of loneliness
- a greater sense of safety
- less worry about remaining in their own homes

For the reasons above, we conclude that the Meals on Wheels program is both effective and needed in our county. Many of the county's subsidized housing complexes depend on MOWCC to help their residents get food.

We sincerely hope you will consider funding or sponsoring meals for our clients in the West Chester Chapter. **Thank you!**

Chester County
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their legacies make a difference.*