

## 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 grant through their Donor Advised Funds.
- \$2.5+ million is granted annually to nonprofits in Chester County and beyond.
- All Community Foundation Funds accept this grant application form.

**Proposals submitted by nonprofits are considered for 2 types of grants:**

### FIELD OF INTEREST & DONOR ADVISED FUNDS (No Deadline)

- ◇ 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.

### FUND FOR CHESTER COUNTY CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS (Due 9/15)

- ◇ 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 annually by **September 15** are eligible for this grant program.
- ◇ Capacity building projects should strengthen a nonprofit, in areas including:
  - Mission, Vision & Strategy
  - Governance & Leadership
  - Strategic Relationships
  - Operations and Technology
  - Fundraising & Development
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically 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 grant program.

- 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, Donors, and the Grants Committee.
- The electronic form is available at [www.chescocf.org](http://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 Grants Administrator Kevin Baffa at (610) 696-8211 [grants@chescocf.org](mailto:grants@chescocf.org) with questions.

# 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

## Contact Information

Organization Name: GunSenseUs Chester County Executive Director/CEO Name: Ann Colby Cummings

Address: GunSenseUs PO Box 1314 Malvern, PA 19355

Executive Director/CEO E-mail: [acummings610@gmail.com](mailto:acummings610@gmail.com)

Phone: 610-793-2098 (Dianne Lanham)

Board of Directors Chair Name: Ann Colby Cummings

Website: <https://gunsenseus.org>

Primary Contact Name: Dianne Lanham

Year Incorporated: 2012

Primary Contact E-mail: [dglanham@gmail.com](mailto:dglanham@gmail.com)

FEIN: NA

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):

All of Chester County

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

All Chester County residents; 700+ GunSenseUs members currently

**Mission:**

"To foster Community well-being by seeking common sense solutions that recognize all citizens rights and responsibilities in working to reduce gun violence and ensure safe gun ownership"

## **Proposal Summary:**

GunSenseUs is a nonpartisan organization for reducing and preventing gun violence. Our membership includes persons of all political parties, including gun owners and non-gunowners who all want safer gun laws. We believe in protecting the second amendment and do not want guns removed from law-abiding citizens who are safe, responsible gunowners. We are in need of funds to continue outreach education efforts on gun violence prevention throughout Chester County and also to educate our lawmakers who can legislatively affect change. We know that more Pennsylvanians are killed by gun violence than in car accidents annually, that Pennsylvania women are killed with guns wielded by intimate partners at a high rate. Chester County has been greatly affected by this type of gun violence where women have been killed by their intimate partners who should never have been able to own a gun due to their partners' abusive history that was well known to many, including local law enforcement. The extreme risk protection law we propose and are working hard with lawmakers to support, would possibly have saved their lives. (See "Description of Key Initiatives")

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

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

**Annual Budget** \$\_\_\_\_\_ \$10,000 to \$12,000\_\_\_\_\_ 0\_ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
\_\_\_ 90\_\_\_ % of budget for program expenses \_\_\_ 100% (8)\_\_\_ # of Board Volunteers  
\_\_\_\_\_ % of budget for administrative expenses \_\_\_ 10\_\_\_ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
\_\_\_ 10\_\_\_ % of budget for fundraising expenses \_\_\_ 100 hrs. monthly\_\_\_\_\_ # of Volunteer Hours  
*100 % total*

**Top 3-5 funding sources: GunSenseUs member donations, Foundation Grants, Board Donations**

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$\_\_\_\_\_ 5000.00\_\_\_\_\_

## II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

*Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.*

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

Began in 2012 as "Chester County Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence". Initially had 100 members, now our name is, "GunSenseUs" and there are over 800 members. The name change was made to support our efforts to gain consensus with gun owners and non-gun owners to push for safe gun laws. From its beginnings, GunSenseUs has sought to create a safe place to hear divergent views with an emphasis on mutual respect, empathy and compassion. In recognition of gun violence as an issue that affects every member of society, and in recognition of the polarizing nature of the topic, GunSenseUs established an initial operating principle of non-partisanship. We will speak with, any individual or group that is interested in the topic of reducing violence, regardless of political affiliation. We will strive to achieve balance in our outreach to and maintain contact with groups from across the political spectrum. While we cannot control who is willing to speak with us, or not, it is our goal to engage all groups for discussion and support-Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians, Independents and other groups. GunSenseUs is an all-volunteer, nonpartisan, not for profit 501c4 and a 501c3 educational organization advocating changes in gun laws to reduce gun violence and to implement educational programs to reduce gun injury and death. We have gunowners and non- gun owners, Democrats and Republicans on our Board of Directors; all have consensus on how we can improve gun safety and thus reduce gun violence. We work closely with family members who have been affected by gun violence; they have become members of GunSenseUs. We have a grandfather of a Sandy Hook survivor on our fundraising committee and family members invite us to attend memorial services for their loved ones lost to gun violence. They believe in our common sense approach which supports the second amendment and is void of political bias. We are working with both Democrat and Republican lawmakers in PA to gain their support in the passage of safer gun laws.

Our Board of Directors hold monthly meetings (at various spots throughout the county), that includes a full agenda on issues related to work completed and work in progress. Each Board Member assumes responsibility for at least one major effort deemed critical to our mission. Members are asked to speak at various events and to participate in round table discussions. The majority of the GunSenseUs board members attended a classroom firearms training and "live fire" training provided by a local shooting range and taught by an NRA trained instructor. This provided the board with vital information on the various types of guns, safe gun usage and the opportunity to practice shooting these types of guns. It gave us a first hand look at understanding the gun climate and why gun owners want to protecting their rights.

We also hold quarterly educational programs for our members on all aspects of gun safety and gun violence prevention. For example, we presented programs (at various sites throughout Chester County) such as, "Facts and Figures on Guns and Suicides", Current Gun Laws in PA, Extreme Risk Protections and current status of this important issue. On October 7, 2019, we are holding our annual "big community event" in West Chester at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. The program will feature a discussion of the three B.E.T. policies we're advocating and will feature speakers who are experienced firearm owners who support these policies. One speaker is David Chipman who is a former agent at Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and a current Senior Policy Analyst with the Giffords organization. Our chairperson holds a monthly call with a PA gun safety coalition as an information gathering and sharing opportunity.

## 2. Funding request

### Description of key initiatives

GunSenseUs interacts with both gun owners and non-gun owners alike in open, respectful conversations to develop the ways we all can work together for effective, sensible solutions. We are committed to its unique approach that finding common ground is the first step towards results. The new theme, "Your Best B.E.T. For Gun Safety is the rallying call for **B**ackground **C**hecks, **E**xtrême Risk initiatives and **T**rainning/Safety programs.

### Our Strategic Themes are:

1. Continue to equip and grow the organization's engagement and educational effort.
2. Develop and implement educational programs designed to reduce gun injury and death.
3. Develop fundraising capability to provide needed resources

## 3. Specific needs and issues to be addressed

Education of Chester County community members on safe and responsible gun ownership, to stress the adherence to safe gun laws to prevent gun violence and to push for the enactment of safe gun laws through education of state legislators.

### Why it is important to fund this now?

Tragically, the gun injuries and death keep coming. Community members are shot at work, on the road, at the mall and while attending movies and block parties. It is only a matter of time before one of us or a family member is injured or killed by gun violence. GunSenseUs Board of Directors will educate Chester County citizens on current PA gun laws and how they can affect legislation to change current gun laws to ensure responsible and safe gun usage. They will understand how these changes can reduce gun violence that threatens our citizens of Chester County and others in the state of PA.

## 4. How impact and results will be demonstrated

Once these safer gun laws are passed, research can be conducted on a county and state level to determine the impact before and after the gun law changes.

### *i. For capacity building grant proposals:*

- *How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?  
It will allow us to expand our educational software capabilities and technology (graphic design and video) support. In addition, it will allow us to reach out to Chester County residents through education specific programs (suicide prevention education and other gun safety issues, for example) and also to provide presentations to educate our audience on what is happening within the dynamic nature of the gun debate.*
- *How will this impact be measured?  
We will be collecting data on key measures such as, the number of educational programs provided and attendees, new members acquired, and of course, gun safety laws presented and passed by our Pennsylvania lawmakers indirectly or directly as a result of our educational efforts to ensure safer gun laws.*

- *Include a description of the expected activities; timeline and costs to implement the initiative. If external consulting services are required, include the anticipated costs and expertise of the consultants to be hired. Include external consultant proposals if appl*  
***We plan a large annual event each year (average cost is \$2,000), to educate members and others on issues related to the current landscape on gun safety and gun violence prevention. The title of the event this year is titled “Your Best B.E.T. for Gun Safety”, (see attached description of B.E.T.). We continue to do tabling (setting up a table at numerous community events to educate community members about gun violence prevention). We will attend 10 this summer and fall. These tabling activities cost approximately \$50 per event. We also need to use financial software and graphic design/video consultants to assist with graphic design video projects (cost is an average of \$500). This allows us to continue to disseminate our gun safety and gun violence reduction education messages. We are also in need of data entry and data management services for membership management and donor responses.***