I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Committee Members & Fund Advisors.

Date: 10/22/2019

Contact Information:
Organization Name: Chester County Futures
Contact Name: Maria McDonald
Address: 704 Haywood Drive
Contact Title: Executive Director
Exton, PA 19341
Contact E-mail: mmcdonald@ccfutures.org

Phone: 610-458-9926
Fax: 610-458-7472
Website: www.ccfutures.org
Year Incorporated: 2003

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes X No __ Not Sure __
Has your nonprofit received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes X No __ Not Sure __
X 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: We serve the following four school districts: Coatesville
Area, Oxford Area, Kennett Consolidated and Phoenixville Area.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: Student enrollment for 2019-2020 school year is
290 students: 200 Grade 9-12 and 90 Grade 8 students. We will also serve 160 post-secondary students with college
Transition services and scholarships. Grade 8 students engage in an academic enrichment camp & monthly support sessions.

We serve youth who face challenges brought on by their socio-economic circumstances. This past year, some 38% lived in
single parent homes or with a grandparent. Of the students, 56% were Hispanic, 21% Black, 1% Asian, 4% bi-racial.
The vast majority (83%) had parents who never attended college and 14% have parents without a high school diploma.
The students have academic potential, but need supplemental supports and knowledge to access higher education.

Mission: Chester County Futures provides comprehensive academic support, mentoring and scholarships to
motivated disadvantaged youth to succeed in school, higher education and life.

Proposal Summary: CCF seeks general operating support for its academic, real-world learning, mentoring, college
transition activities. Passport to College serves Grades 9-12. Futures AHEAD serves Grade 8. Steps4Success serves post-
secondary students with a college boot camp and on-going services in higher education. We offer an eight-week career
exploration and educational program in collaboration with West Chester University. Your gift provides services to
struggling adolescents who need extra support in school and to attain post-secondary credentials.

If Capacity Building Proposal:
___ Mission, Vision & Strategy ___ Governance & Leadership ___ Strategic Relationships
___ Fundraising & Development ___ Operations ___ Other: ________________________________

Annual Budget $859,000___________ 10.5 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
83 % of budget for program expenses 17 # of Board Volunteers
6 % of budget for administrative expenses 230 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
11 % of budget for fundraising expenses 2,700 # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Our top funding sources include: The Pew Charitable Trusts, $54,000; Synthes, $40,000;
State Street Foundation, $30,000; SAP, $35,000; Voya, $25,000;
Grant Amount Requested from CCCF: $500-$5,000
II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE
BY CHESTER COUNTY FUTURES

1. ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY, GOALS, KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND DISTINCTIVENESS -- In 1996, Chester County Futures (Futures) was formed to offer economically disadvantaged adolescents an equal opportunity to earn a higher education. The organization, created under the 501(c) (3) sponsorship of the Chester County Community Foundation, incorporated in July 2003 and received its own 501 (c)(3) in 2004. Since its inception, the organization has provided low-income teens with supports and services to succeed in school and life.

When Futures first opened its doors, program enrollment was a small group of 12 Grade 9 students. For 2019-2020 school year, we will reach 290 Grade 8-12 students in four school districts. These districts are: Coatesville Area, Kennett Consolidated, Oxford Area and Phoenixville Area. The enrollment number does not include 162 post-secondary students who will also receive services through our college transition programs and scholarships. In total, Futures is projected to serve 452 Chester County students.

As of June 2019, 100% of our seniors (35) graduated on time. Some 91% have enrolled in college or technical schools. Several have entered military service. Our four year post-secondary school graduation rate has risen to 53%. This is five times greater than the national average for low-income college students and nearly twice as high as the graduation rate for low-income students in the state. Futures is the only organization in Chester County that provides academic enrichment, mentoring, scholarship and college transition supports to low-income public school students.

2. FUNDING REQUEST -- Futures requests funding for its programs: Futures AHEAD, Passport to College and Steps4Success. Your support will provide over 400 after-school academic enrichment classes and will enhance the supports for students. An enrichment camp will provide 15 hours of supplemental learning for Grade 8 students along with monthly support sessions. Passport students engage in real-world learning, individual advising sessions, mentoring and have guidance to access post-secondary school. Steps4Success enables our predominately first-generation college students to adjust to higher education. We seek support ranging from $700-$3,000.

A. Specific Chester County Needs and Issues Addressed -- The economic recovery still remains uneven for working class families in the county. Many students are negatively impacted at home and in school by the lingering effects of the socioeconomic conditions in their families and communities. Of the secondary students we serve, 100% receive free or reduced priced meals at school. In fact, some 39.2% of secondary students in the four districts receive free or reduced priced meals. County statistics also show an educational attainment gap between low-income and high-income students. In 2019, the percent of college bound graduates is smaller in the least affluent schools compared to the most affluent schools. The gap is a 28 point disparity! In addition, students in the least affluent districts have a much lower college readiness score compared to the least affluent schools. (US News, 2019 Rankings of Best High Schools in the US.) Studies show that even high performing low-income and minority students are at a disadvantage when it comes to college completion. They are less likely to graduate due to social cultural and financial barriers. Steps4Success addresses these issues to provide necessary supports and services.

Of Futures’ total high school enrollment, 82% are minority students (56% are Hispanic, 21% are African-American, 1% are Asian and 4% bi-racial). 41% live in single parent households, or with a grandparent or guardian. The vast majority (85%) of our students have parents who have not attended college, and 14% come from families where neither parent graduated from high school.

Futures has eight staff responsible for the Futures AHEAD, Passport to College and Steps4Success programming activities throughout the year. They deliver the after-school classes, individual advising sessions, events and coordinate college tours, enrichment camps, and career site visits and more.

B. Organizational Impact -- The impact of Futures is tremendous for the youth served by the programs. The community has motivated and engaged adolescents in the classroom. Low-income neighborhoods have hope that their youth can enter and complete higher education. The county gains a diverse and skilled labor pool. Recent data shows that a majority of our low-income college graduates return to the local community to live and work. They bring educational credentials and workplace skills to area corporations. In addition, we deliver services that overburdened
and under-funded public schools cannot sufficiently provide. We have a positive impact on low-income families who do not have the resources or knowledge to support their child’s dream of a higher education.

C. Overall strategies to implement the organization’s mission (or project) -- There are four strategies. First, academic enrichment provides skill-building sessions to improve student performance. Grade-appropriate classes are conducted weekly to increase motivation and knowledge. Individual advising sessions occur on a quarterly basis. The curriculum includes study skills, essay writing, positive peer relationships, time management, SAT Prep, financial literacy, and college and job interviewing classes. Passport also builds developmental skills among the students through leadership and community projects. Second, the most vulnerable students have mentoring opportunities through one-on-one mentors who offer personal guidance. Third, Futures awards scholarship funds to students for their college education or trade school. Fourth, we provide college transitional supports and services to enable students to adjust to higher education.

D. Why it is important to fund this now? --The latest college enrollment and completion rates are dismal for low-income communities in the county. A huge disparity exists between low-income youth and high-income youth. Equal educational opportunity is critical for the families, the schools and communities where they live. Without the right supports, low-income youth will not be able to secure post-secondary credentials. These credentials are essential in today’s labor market as young uneducated adults find it increasingly difficult to find self-sustaining jobs. Area companies are already seeing a lack of diverse, well-qualified job applicants. We make a positive difference in the community by addressing these issues and by empowering economically disadvantaged youth to harness their abilities and attributes to earn a post-secondary education. We give the youth and their families hope for a better future.

3. TIMETABLES WITH ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO THE NONPROFIT’S MISSION
--- By the end of the 2019-2020 school year, we will have the following outcomes: 1) 100% of Futures’ Class of 2020 graduate from high school; 2) 90% + of our high school graduates enroll in post-secondary education; 3) 50% of students earn 85+ in core subjects; 4) 100% of students engage in career and college exploration; 5) 100% of students advance to the next grade level; and 6) to maintain or increase our 53% college graduation rate.

4. HOW IMPACT AND RESULTS WILL BE DEMONSTRATED – Our program is measured against established goals and objectives for short-term and long-term outcomes. The program is measured on a quarterly basis through a review of student grades, attendance, and engagement in Futures. The high school graduation rate, our college/post secondary school enrollment rate and college/post-secondary retention and graduation rates are calculated and reviewed annually. Program staff conduct periodic pre and post student surveys and periodic informal interviews with parents, teachers, guidance counselors, principals and other individuals to guarantee high quality program activities.