

**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

Contact Information

Organization Name: Chester County Women's Services	Executive Director/CEO Name: Myriam Ruager
Address: 1028 E. Lincoln Hwy. Coatesville, PA 19320	Executive Director/CEO E-mail: myriam@ccwsmedical.org
Phone: (610) 383-0930	Board of Directors Chair Name: Ken Hunt
Website: ccwsmedicalinfo.org & ccwsmedical.org	Primary Contact Name: Michelle Maloney
Year Incorporated: 1985	Primary Contact E-mail: michelle@ccwsmedical.org
FEIN: 23-2385983	

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

<input type="checkbox"/> Arts, Culture & Humanities	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment/Animal Welfare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion

Mission: Chester County Women's Services is a Pregnancy Care Medical Center exists to educate and empower individuals and their families to make life-affirming choices. We support women and their families physically, emotionally, and financially through basic pregnancy care, parenting education, material support, spiritual support, and our Homeless Prevention Program.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

The greater Chester County Area

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

Annual Budget \$ <u>641,710</u>	<u>3</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>69</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>12</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>12</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>106</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>19</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>1,933</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>	

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building or General Operating ?

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

<input type="checkbox"/> Mission, Vision & Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/> Governance & Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Relationships
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising & Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Technology	Other: _____

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 3,000

Proposal Summary:

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

Chester County Women's Services (CCWS) began in 1985 with the opening of our first pregnancy care center in Thorndale, PA. Services in the beginning were limited to free pregnancy tests and community referrals. In order to increase the level of support and care over the long term for women and families in crisis we launched an educational program in 2001 called The Family Movement. One year later, in 2002, we acquired our first ultrasound machine and in 2003 we became a medical center. From that point forward we began to see an exponential amount of growth and in 2007 we opened a second medical center in downtown West Chester, and in 2013 our third medical center in Kennett Square. In 2017 we launched our Homeless Prevention Program geared at helping our pregnant clients who are at risk of facing homelessness due to their pregnancy. In 2018, we moved our West Chester Center to a more prominent location and larger space in the heart of West Chester, and our need continues to increase with each passing year. We serve hundreds of women and families annually throughout the greater Chester County area.

CCWS is distinguished by our commitment to provide FREE, high-quality pregnancy-based medical, peer-counseling, educational and homeless prevention services to anyone in need, regardless of race, religion, income, or other factors. We provide practical help, but even more importantly we offer hope, support, care and compassion without judgement. Our clients make comments such as "I feel safe when I am here," and "thank you for listening to me when no one else will."

Our medical services are comprehensive and cannot be found at other local agencies. Besides providing a pregnancy test, we also offer each pregnant woman a free limited ultrasound. These scans confirm that the mother is carrying a viable pregnancy in the uterus, provides an estimated due date and confirms the baby's heart is beating. The average cost for an ultrasound is \$263. We are able to provide this service free of charge. We also provide free prenatal vitamins throughout the course of the pregnancy and free medical consultations as needed.

Our parenting program, the Family Movement Program has a positive reputation in the community. Other local agencies refer their clients to our program, such as the Community, Youth, and Women's Alliance (CYWA) in Coatesville, Guadenzia in Coatesville, Young Lives. We know that this program makes a positive impact on the lives of the parents and a lifelong impact on their children because each week we hear comments such as, "I never realized how important this is," or "I tried what you said in class and it worked!" Neglect and abuse can result from a lack of parenting skills, and participants in our program have stated that they don't have yell or hit their child to get them to listen. Clients earn points for coming to class, doing their homework, and actively participating in class. They can then trade those points in for necessities such as diapers, wipes, formula, car seats, high chair, pack and plays, feminine hygiene items, and more! In this way clients are earning these items while learning valuable life skills.

Our newest program is our Homeless Prevention Program and helps our clients who are facing homelessness as a result of their pregnancy. Requirements include showing a steady stream of income from their work paystubs and taking financial budgeting classes free of charge on-site. This program is helping families stay together by bridging a short-term financial gap during in a time of need. This program also provides pregnant women a host family in which they are provided a family to stay with on a short-term basis until a more permanent solution can be found.

The overall goal for Chester County Women's Services is to serve women and families by educating and empowering individuals and families through emotional, spiritual, and practical support to ensure a brighter future for the generations to come.

2. Funding request

We are requesting \$3,000.00 to support and sustain our FREE medical, educational, material resources, and homeless prevention services to at-risk women and families in the Chester County region in our three centers located in Coatesville, Kennett Square, and West Chester.

1. Description of key initiatives

According to the Family Research Council, women planning to abort their child were 2 - 3 1/2 times more likely to keep their children after viewing their ultrasounds. Providing free ultrasounds on site is essential to allow women to see the life they are carrying, and to identify any potential health risks as soon as possible. All pregnancy tests and ultrasounds are performed by certified nurses and trained sonographers. We also offer free unlimited nurse consultations and pre-natal vitamins.

CCWS isn't just a medical clinic: our mission is to educate and empower, and we offer a comprehensive parenting education curriculum at no cost to our clients. We want to equip the clients that come to us to be the best parents possible. It starts with free access to quality pre-natal medical care, but education is essential to the long-term vitality and success of a family. Our parenting program teaches healthy parenting skills which can break cycles of abuse and neglect. Poverty and lack of parenting skills are two key factors that can promote and foster an environment of abuse and neglect. Class participants learn to care for and raise their children in safe and stable homes, and they also earn incentives for class participation, which provides much needed material assistance for essential items such as diapers, clothing, formula, cribs, car seats, and strollers. We currently offer 24 classes per week between our three centers. These include our **evidence-based Relationships Under Construction, Breastfeeding, Childbirth, Budgeting 101, Men's Mentoring, Parenting Support, Post-Abortion Support, Anger Management, Bible Studies and Post-Partum Support.**

Our **homeless prevention program** is in place to assist current CCWS families who are experiencing a financial hardship in paying their rent or mortgage due to the pregnancy. We already have three families who are applying for assistance since launching our program just a few months ago. Our goal is to help these families bridge the gap between what they can pay and what they need to pay. There are stringent rules in place to ensure that we are giving a hand up to these families, assisting them in a way that will allow them to care for their pregnancy or new baby and keep their home and/or job.

2. Specific needs and issues to be addressed

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2011, 45% of all pregnancies in the United States were unintended. Low-income women are more than five times as likely to experience a crisis pregnancy. If current trends continue, more than half of all women in the United States will experience an unintended pregnancy by the time they reach age 45. At CCWS, the majority of the women who come to us for help do not have insurance and have had no previous prenatal care. We provide a free pregnancy test, limited ultrasound, prenatal vitamins, and unlimited nurse consultations throughout their pregnancies. We also provide a pregnancy verification document which is needed to obtain insurance, all at no cost, as well as essential skills and tools they will need to raise their children in healthy, loving home environments.

We are looking for financial support to help sustain our medical services. This includes the purchasing of medical supplies such as gowns, gloves, table coverings, ultrasound probe covers, pregnancy tests, ultrasound paper and insurance for our ultrasound machines.

We are also looking for support for our parenting classes, specifically our new programs such as Anger Management and Smoking Cessation. These classes help address core issues that affect health of a family, both physically and emotionally. Our goal is to help educate our clients to empower them to make positive choices, resulting in long-term changed behavior. We want to break cycles of neglect and abuse to them and their families.

Funding for our homeless prevention program will help families in Chester County stay current on their rent or utility bills, so they aren't facing having utilities shut off or eviction due to pregnancy complications or time off work.

3. Why it is important to fund this now?

Our need within the community is growing. As we have expanded our services to be full-service for our clients, our clients are finding a safe place where they can come for comprehensive, holistic care. We are meeting their medical, emotional and spiritual needs all within the confines of one center. From 2015 to 2018 our client visits jumped from 1,526 visits to 2,943 visits. That is a 48% increase in just three years!

The change that is taking place in the hearts and minds of those coming to CCWS for help is not short-term. The goal of our services is to positively affect generational change. The time is now!

4. How impact and results will be demonstrated

This grant would help ensure that each and every person who comes to CCWS would be empowered and equipped with the medical care, resources, education, material assistance and support they need to raise healthy, happy children in stable, loving home environments. We firmly believe if you want to have an impact in your community, then you must accomplish this one life at a time. Invest in a life and they in turn will invest in others. Through our programs we know we are making a noticeable impact as we see lives transformed. We empower women and men to make positive choices through every part of their parenting journey.

- Client visits and needs are measured and recorded for recordkeeping purposes.
- Client testimonies are shared with our donor base.
- Clients are checked on to ensure family needs are being met, and when needed referred to other community agencies that can help.
- Funders receive annual report and quarterly newsletters with updated statistics and stories.