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## COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request

Date:

### Contact Information

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### In a few brief paragraphs, please explain:

1. **What geographic area is served?** (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served)
2. **What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**
3. **How much funding is sought? How does this compare to your annual operating budget? What will the funding be used for? What is the expected timeframe for use of funds?**

### What geographic area is served?

Kennett Area Community Service serves individuals and families who live within the Kennett, Avon Grove and Unionville Chadds Ford School Districts. The Kennett Consolidated School District has one of the highest density populations of poverty in Southern Chester County.

### What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?

KACS serves the under-resourced population in our above noted region. Our Emergency Assistance Program offers financial assistance for rent, utility bills, and other basic living expenses, as well as a micro loan program. We offer housing assistance to those who are experiencing homelessness or are about to be homeless. Our Food Cupboard is a full-choice pantry which provides a 5-7 day supply of food once a month. We are already seeing a dramatic increase in those visiting KACS for the first time due to circumstances relating to the impact of COVID-19. Now more than ever, low-income families are depending on KACS. Many families not currently served by KACS are facing new financial hardships, particularly low-wage service workers and other hourly employees, due to the severe economic slowdown. Now with the mandated closure of many businesses in our community, the need for the services provided by KACS will only increase. These additional individuals and families are quickly becoming under-resourced.

KACS has kept our Emergency Assistance Program open by appointment and our Food Cupboard open during normal hours, pledging to feed all those in need until we run out of food. We have instituted measures to try to keep both our staff and participants safe. At this time, we are unable to accept any food donations from the general public as we have suspended our 75 volunteers for safety reasons during this pandemic. Accordingly, KACS is manning the food cupboard solely with our small staff. We are partnering with the Chester County Food Bank to receive prepackaged boxes of shelf-stable goods and staples.

In all of January 2020, KACS' Food Cupboard served 394 families (1156 individuals). In contrast, in the past week alone, the cupboard has already served 170 families.

**How much funding is sought? How does this compare to your annual operating budget? What will the funding be used for? What is the expected timeframe for use of funds?**

We are seeking a grant of \$5000 to be used to purchase proteins, fresh produce and dairy products. While this is only 0.28% of our annual budget, this type of food is typically donated by our local grocery stores, including Costco, Walmart, Giant, Acme and others. Grocery store donations were stopped last week because, due to the public's reaction to the COVID -19 outbreak, these stores had no extra food to donate. We would start using these funds immediately and continue until they run out.

Please email [grants@chescof.org](mailto:grants@chescof.org)

- \_\_\_\_\_ This Brief COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request
- \_\_\_\_\_ Copy of annual operating budget or most recent audit
- \_\_\_\_\_ 501c3 determination letter

Request letters will be posted on the Community Foundation's website, in order to share with fund advisors, donors, grant panelists, and other funding sources.

Grants will be processed a few times monthly.

We estimate mini-grants will range from \$500 to \$5000.

Please direct general questions & inquiries about the Rapid Response Mini-Grants to [grants@chescof.org](mailto:grants@chescof.org).

Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.