



28 W. Market Street, Lincoln Biography Building
West Chester, PA 19382
610.696.8211 www.chescocf.org

CCCF COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grants

Per IRS Regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax exempt organizations with 501(c) (3) certification & cannot be individuals.

Background/Eligibility

The Community Foundation's COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund provides flexible resources to **Chester County nonprofits** that are disproportionately impacted by coronavirus and the economic consequences of this outbreak. This is designed as a flexible short-term response fund to provide relief for a variety of unexpected costs. We envision three funding priority levels:

- **Front Line Grants** fund community-based nonprofits that have increased demand for services due to COVID-19. These nonprofits have deep roots in community and a strong track-record serving people who are immediately and disproportionately suffering from this crisis. This includes services to financially vulnerable people who work in industries without sick leave &/or health care; homeless people; and health-challenged vulnerable people. Grants are intended to complement the work of public health officials and expand local capacity to address acute needs of the outbreak as efficiently as possible. These grants are NOT of the scale to support larger public institutions that are strained by increased demand for services. Examples of the types of nonprofits in most need of Front Line Grant Support, as service numbers rise: community-based health clinics; food bank & food pantries; meal delivery programs; homelessness programs.
- **Service-Challenged Grants** fund nonprofits that are modifying their in-person service delivery modes extremely rapidly due to COVID-19, and need assistance to do so. These nonprofits likely need additional assistance to upgrade sanitation protocols and obtain cleaning supplies & service personnel. This includes: youth centers, recreation centers, child care, senior services, adult day care, community-based education programs.
- **Collateral Damage Grants** fund nonprofits facing extreme difficulty because of lost revenue due to closures and cancellations, as well as other challenges.



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COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request

Date:

Contact Information

Organization Name: Family Promise of Southern Chester County
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Phone: (610) 444-0400
Website: www.familypromisesc.org
FEIN: 35-2518819

ED/CEO Name: Bill Carl
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Board Chair Name: Kimberly Zuleba
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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)*

Chester County with a focus in Southern Chester County

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

Family Promise of Southern Chester County (FPSCC) is the only shelter program for families in Southern Chester County and has helped change the lives of 62 families, including 132 children and 78 adults. There are shelter programs for men and shelter programs for women in SCC, families may choose to live in their cars rather than be separated from their underage children. The families that we serve face daunting economic challenges and must overcome additional obstacles such as lack of education and/or transportation. FPSCC ensures that low income families experiencing homelessness achieve sustainable, long-term economic stability and lasting independence. A typical day for the participants in our program involves use of our Resource Center to work with our Case Manager on resume composition, job searches, additional education, financial budgeting and to handle necessities like doing laundry and bathing. In the evening, our participants are transported to one of our host churches to have dinner and spend the night. FPSCC relies upon host congregations to house our participants nightly.

FPSCC serves two types of constituents; those directly served in the rotational shelter program and those on the cusp of losing their homes who require emergency intervention such as paying utility bills or rent to enable them to catch up and prevent them from becoming homeless.

The advent of COVID-19 has meant that the rotational shelter that we rely upon is no longer available. We are initiating a COVID-19 protocol that will provide temporary housing for the families in our program. We anticipate that as more and more churches close, within one week, we will be required to house the participants in a hotel, possibly for as long as 90 days. The estimated expenses are significant and outside of our budget.

For those still in their homes but in danger of losing power or being evicted, we will continue to provide resources as needed. We cannot decrease the support we give without endangering the health of our community members. This is an even more dangerous time to become homeless.

The impact of COVID-19 has been profound, beyond our increased expenses. The health crisis has preempted our single largest fundraising event from occurring. An Evening of Promise which delivers close to \$100,000 into our budget was scheduled to take place on March 28th. The cancellation of the event signals a significant loss of revenue for FPSCC. That loss coupled with the expense of emergency housing for the families has created a financial crisis for FPSCC.

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?**

Funding: FPSCC respectfully requests \$5,000 support to bridge the gap between the current needs and our budgeted income losses. Preliminary exploration has shown that the costs associated with housing our participants for 30 days in a hotel will be \$8,500. We anticipate that our second demographic (those currently in homes) will require an additional \$7,000 in expenses. Low-income wage-earning parents rely upon their ability to work 2-3 jobs a week to meet rent, utilities and to feed their families. The loss of childcare and school closings requiring parents to be home translates directly into critical funds lost. This is a time of crisis and FPSCC seeks to work with our community partners to bear the load and ensure our community is housed.

Impact on the annual operating budget: The FPSCC program is extremely lean and has not had to cover hotel costs for a prolonged period. There are exceptions, for example, in the case of a family that has lost their home there is not room in our shelter program for a short, defined period, we will house them in a hotel to ensure the children are not sleeping in a car or other unsafe cover until we can accept them. The families sleep at the churches which equates to an in kind donation of time and housing.

What will the funding be used for: These funds will cover the hotel rooms, the food and supplies needed by the families and enable FPSCC to keep our families safe. As outlined above, the funds will be divided to support families in and outside of the rotational shelter program.

What is the expected timeframe: We expect to need to rehouse the families by next week (3/23/20). Current projections include 30-90 days of housing before the congregations are open and ready to resume the rotational shelter model. We are already fielding calls from graduates of our program who are concerned about keeping the lights on and their children fed. A further consequence of the health crisis will likely be the permanent loss of employment and the need to seek new jobs. Sadly, the funds will need to be utilized within the next 30 days.

Please email grants@chescofc.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. Direct general questions & inquiries about the Rapid Response Mini-Grants to grants@chescofc.org.

Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.