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COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request

Date:

Contact Information

Organization Name: Friends Association
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FEIN: 23-1381006

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Board Chair Name: Matthew Holliday
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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)**

Friends Association serves all of Chester County, PA

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

Throughout the year, Friends Association serves low-income families who are facing or experiencing homelessness. With the outbreak of COVID-19, we are facing an unprecedented challenge to our work as we strive to continue our usual programming, emergency shelter and homelessness prevention, while also rising to meet the amplified and critical needs arising from this new crisis.

We are serving a population who during the best of times is living on the edge. They are hourly workers, with no paid sick leave, who are already experiencing a decrease in wages and hours; they already spend a disproportionate amount (most more than 50%) of their limited incomes on housing due to the high cost of living in Chester County; they are always one crisis away from financial devastation. This crisis is compounding their situation and is devastating economically, educationally, and for their mental and physical wellness.

In response to this outbreak, Friends Association has increased our support to families in need. We are providing basic necessities – food, transportation, access to healthcare – through both our own financial resources, as well as community partnerships. We already know that we will have a dramatically increased need for rental subsidies for those families who are in their own housing, and for those in our shelter once they access permanent housing.

The impact of this outbreak is going to be long-term and the economic fallout of this crisis will disproportionately impact families in poverty. We are the safety-net for many of our families and that need will only increase in the months and even years to come.

- 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?**

For the purposes of this proposal, we are requesting \$5,000 (total agency budget of \$968,319) to be used to provide support with basic needs and rental subsidies for families in need in Chester County. During this fiscal year, we have averaged approximately \$12,000 per month in financial assistance to the 87 families served to date. We anticipate that the families who graduated from receiving financial assistance will be reopened and that we will see an increase in the number of new families accessing services through Friends. We anticipate that we would use this funding within three months of receipt.

Please email 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.
Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.