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COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request

Date: Mar 18, 2020

Contact Information

Organization Name: Phoenixville Area Senior Center
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In a few brief paragraphs, please explain:

- 1. What geographic area is served?** The Phoenixville Area Senior Center serves northern Chester County – Phoenixville, Spring City and the surrounding townships from Collegeville in Montgomery County in the north to Chester Springs, from Pottstown in the west to King of Prussia in the east.
- 2. What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?** The center serves seniors 60 and over, the population most vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus. Historically the center provides food service (breakfast, lunch and food donations) to approximately 350 seniors. The center also continues to provide breakfast service to approximately 15 homeless and unsheltered in Phoenixville. Of the six senior centers in Chester County, Phoenixville is one of only two centers still providing services to seniors.

The center closed its facility to protect its participants but continues to provide nutrition, information services and emotional support. The center added an additional day of breakfast increasing from 4 to 5 days a week - now serving a grab and go breakfast sack including a protein, fruit and starch entirely funded by the center. The center is also distributing state funded box lunches 5 days a week, as well as collecting and distributing community food donations to our participants. The center has seen exponential growth of the program in the first week. The first day we passed out meals to 5 people, by the end of the first week we served 30. We are planning to feed 75-100 daily by the end of the second week. The center can feed a maximum of 150 based on refrigeration capacity each day.

Nutritional needs are not the only concerns our seniors are experiencing. The center is coordinating 30 trusted volunteers who are personally phoning the 200 center participants who live alone. They are ensuring the health of the seniors, addressing isolation (which can be as detrimental as smoking a pack of cigarettes a day.) They are also asking about unmet needs and reporting to a staff coordinator. Another example of reducing isolation, a local nursing home's residents are writing "pen pal" letters (using safety precautions) to be included with our sack lunches-benefitting both groups. The center's APPRISE counselor is helping with Medicare and prescription issues.

In addition to our regular participants, the center is working with Chester County Food Bank and the 6 subsidized senior housing facilities in our footprint to provide meal services to the more than 320 seniors residing there. The 6 buildings are owned and operated by 4 different companies and have varying arrangements with CCFB and none of them expected to deal with a crisis of this magnitude or length. This is expected to add staff hours. If the center receives enough funding we can supplement

- 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?**

The center is requesting \$5000. This is less than 2% of our general operating budget.

Part of this will be used to cover additional expenses. The Center added a robo call service at a cost of \$190/month. We expect to need this service for 2 to 3 months at a minimum. A daily breakfast for 50 normally costs the Center \$100/day. A

packaged meal is more expensive than a cooked meal to provide. This cost increase is \$25/day or \$400/month. The center added another of breakfast which costs \$125/week or \$500/month. **These additional expenses total \$1100/month.**

Loss of revenue - Due to the COVID-19 virus, the Center has lost at least 11% of its annual budget (\$45,000 of \$407,000) The center has had to cancel two major fundraisers, two trips, one grantor won't be meeting and a significant loss of activity fees, membership drive and income tax donations. **The remaining \$3900 will be used to support expenses over the next one to two months.**

Normal center expenses are \$1700 /day. With cost reductions (eliminating direct costs for cancelled programming, reducing heating and lighting costs) and staff (two staff going to Shared Work, reducing hours for others), daily expense are still \$1250/day. Guaranteed income is \$600/day. The Center expects community support will increase but is using cash reserves at this time.

Please email grants@chescocf.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@chescocf.org.

Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.