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.
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)**

The geographic area served by the Coatesville Youth Initiative is the Greater Coatesville Area/Coatesville Area School District, which encompasses nine separate municipalities/townships, including the City of Coatesville, Modena, South Coatesville, Caln, West Caln, West Brandywine, East Fallowfield, Sadsbury, and Valley Township.

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

The target population that we serve are youth 9-20 years of age, in addition to parents of youth (ages 9-20), and the community at large. We place a special emphasis on meeting the needs of underserved youth living in our poorer communities, particularly, the City of Coatesville.

We serve youth and a community where the needs are great yet the resources are limited. While Chester County is among the wealthiest in the state, Coatesville does not reflect the overall prosperity of the county. According to the most recent data from the American Community Survey, the median income for a household in the city of Coatesville is $38,582, which is 60% lower than that of Chester County and 32% lower than the national average. About 30.1% of the population live below the poverty line. The poverty level in Coatesville is 267% higher than that of Chester County and 102% higher than the national average. These living conditions ultimately equate to a high rate of problem behaviors among our youth, particularly underage substance use, truancy, mental health problems, delinquency, transient housing/homelessness, teen pregnancy and family exclusion.

The impact of COVID-19 has been swift and damaging to our youth and community. A key to the effective support that we provide to our youth and the community is our ability to stay connected and provide collaborative approaches to support. This has been nearly lost by the impact of COVID-19. Youth need prosocial opportunities and ways to stay connected with their peers and stable adult mentors. They need effective hands-on support and relevant education and awareness information as they seek to navigate the rough waters of adolescence in a resource strapped, yet trauma rich community.

The Coatesville Youth Initiative has responded to the needs of our youth and community by implementing alternative methods of communicating, connecting, and distributing effective education and awareness information and resources. We have been moving a large portion of our education and awareness
information to online-based. We have also been moving to implementing our community and partnership meetings to online-platforms. Our goal remains to keep our youth, community and partners connected, while we simultaneously provide prosocial opportunities for our youth.

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 Coatesville Youth Initiative, with an operating budget of $893,992 is seeking funding in the amount of $3,210.

As an agency that places a great deal of emphasis on collaboration, community engagement and physical presence with our youth, constituents and those we serve and support, we were caught off guard by COVID-19 and the rapid necessity of social-distancing and working remotely. Our internal systems and organizational structure were ill-equipped for the effective implementation of our agency activities and the administration of effective internal management due to our remote status. To this end, funding will be used to implement effective systems and activities that will support our remote working situation and to allow us to continue to reach our youth, families, community partners, as well as our internal organization team. Use of the funds will begin immediately and will support us throughout the year, as we need to continue implementing online and web-based/alternative means of communicating and keeping our youth and the community connected. Specifically, we are seeking funds for the following:

- The implementation of online meeting software which will enable us to continue to work collaboratively with our partners as well as to keep our youth engaged, as we move all of our current youth groups and meetings to an online system.
- The implementation of Office 365 in our agency, which will enable us to utilize current, effective web-based work, planning, and project management platforms.
- The acquisition of additional IT support to provide remote software and mobile upgrade support.
- The implementation of additional/increased Social Media presence, including Instagram and Facebook, which will serve as our primary means of connecting with our youth and community, keeping them aware of CYI and community activities and happenings, as we continue to plan and move forward with summer programming.
- The implementation of additional Web-based marketing software/strategies, including Constant Contact, which will allow us to increase our ability to continue to provide effective email and online marketing to provide our community with relevant updates and information related to CYI and local resources and activities.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jarvis Berry, Acting Executive Director
Coatesville Youth Initiative
Please email grants@chesco cf.org

X This Brief COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request
X Copy of annual operating budget or most recent audit
X 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@chesco cf.org. Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.