



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: March 19, 2020

### Contact Information

Organization Name: YMCA of Greater Brandywine  
Address: 1 East Chestnut Street, West Chester, PA 19380  
Phone: 610-643-9622  
Website: www.ymcagbw.org  
FEIN: 23-1365994

ED/CEO Name: Denise Day  
ED/CEO E-mail: dday@ymcagbw.org  
Board Chair Name: Jim Horn  
Primary Contact Name: Patti Campbell  
Primary Contact E-mail: pcampbell@ymcagbw.org

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

**1. What geographic area is served?**

All of Chester County will be served.

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

In response to Governor Wolf's directive and in desiring to be a responsible community member, the **YMCA of Greater Brandywine** has ceased operations at our branches. However, our Y recognizes that during this public health emergency, hospital, health care and other essential providers will be working incredibly long hours testing potential patients, providing care to those suffering from the coronavirus and meeting other important community needs.

We have been asked by the Chester County Health Department, as well as local hospitals, to **provide childcare** for emergency responders and essential personnel. Starting on Monday, March 23, our Jennersville and West Chester (Airport Road) locations will be up and running, serving our community by providing these critical childcare services for emergency responders and hospital workers. We will add additional sites as necessary.

Our leadership teams are striving to keep our community connected. We are posting online workouts and daily messages of inspiration across our social media platforms. We are also working on a newsletter to keep our senior members connected, as they are the most isolated during this crisis. Additionally, we have coordinated with the *American Red Cross* and will be running **blood drives** at our Kennett, Lionville, West Chester (Airport Road) and Upper Main Line locations. The Oscar Lasko YMCA branch (downtown West Chester Borough) will serve as a **food distribution** center for our community as we partner with the *Chester County Food Bank*.

While we are pleased and privileged to serve our community in this manner, it goes without saying that this situation poses a significant financial burden to our organization. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we are reliant on the generous charitable donations we receive from our community supporters as well as fees from our dedicated members to operate our facilities and serve the community. With the mandated closure, we are unable to collect fees for programs and services. Given the uncertain duration of the closure, we are facing some tough questions and decisions in the days and weeks ahead, in particular as they pertain to personnel and the on-going expenses of providing these services at our branches in the community.

**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?**

We are requesting grants of \$5,000 to offset the costs of on-going deep cleaning and sanitization efforts that are critical to our ability to continue providing the services listed above. In addition, grant funds would help to cover operating and staff support that enables us to provide childcare, food distribution and other services listed above as well as other services that may be beneficial in the near future.

Our annual operating budget is large, \$44M, but we currently have little to no revenue with the mandated closure. We have already begun cleaning and preparing our branches to provide services starting Monday March 23, 2020. We are in regular contact with the Chester County Health Dept. and other partners and will continue to be responsive to community needs as they arise and as we are able.

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.