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)*
2. **What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**
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 mission of The Barn at Spring Brook Farm (The Barn) is to enrich the lives of children with disabilities through animal-assisted activities focusing on interacting with and caring for smaller farm animals. Located on a 17.5-acre farm in West Chester, our facility is fully handicapped-accessible so that children with a wide variety of physical and developmental disabilities can participate safely and as independently as possible. To our knowledge, this program is the only one of its kind in the Greater Philadelphia Region.

In 2019, The Barn delivered over 800 service hours to over 300 children with disabilities. The majority of the children we service are Chester County residents and attend school in Downingtown, Kennett Square, Malvern, Thorndale, Coatesville and Wayne. Over 25% of our children come from families with limited financial resources.

The Barn delivers its services through four programs: Individual Programs (offered over 12 weeks each in the spring and fall, and six weeks in the summer); Camp Geronimo (offered six weeks in the summer); Socialization Events (four annually); and Educational Field Trips (12 annually).

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, we have cancelled our spring Individual Programs resulting in lost revenue of approximately $7,000. Additionally, we are facing the likelihood of cancelling at least the first three weeks of summer camp due to the unavailability of volunteer health-profession students that do their clinical hours with us as camp counselors. (This is because all area colleges and universities have moved to online teaching formats and have suspended student clinicals.) Cancelling the first three weeks of camp in June will result in a loss of approximately $15,000. Should we need to cancel the last three weeks of camp in August, another $15,000 will be lost. We’ve also had to cancel several field trips planned through the spring.

Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus we are unable to provide our programs virtually since they are based upon children’s physical interactions with our animals and property. There really is no substitute for a hands-on program. Nevertheless, our facilities manager has been posting daily greetings from The Barn’s animals on Facebook to remain connected to and to entertain our families at home. We are also planning a weekly, live-streamed story time.

We are currently scrambling to present our Spring Fundraiser scheduled for April 19 as an online event. Nevertheless, we anticipate losing revenue due to not having a silent auction component. This feature typically raises $7,000 on the day of the event.

All totaled, we anticipate a loss of $29,000 through June 1, and another $15,000 through the end of August if we are faced with cancelling the last three weeks of camp. Overall, program fees contribute to approximately 11% of our revenue, yet...
program costs represent nearly 74% of our total expenses. Regardless of whether our programs run, we must still have the resources to maintain our facilities and feed and care for our animals which are essential to our mission.

At this time, The Barn is requesting donations in any amount up to $29,000 which will make up for revenue lost March through June, 2020 due to COVID-19.

Please email grants@chescocf.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@chescocf.org. Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.