**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.
Date: March 26, 2020

Contact Information
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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)*
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?**

Each year, MCHC serves an average of 5,000 low-income, at-risk families, specifically pregnant/parenting mothers and their children in Chester County through bilingual, bicultural health insurance and benefits enrollment assistance, health education and early childhood development education programs. Our Family Benefits program is a regional outreach, application assistance, and education initiative to provide eligible adults and children with bilingual, culturally competent assistance with accessing subsidized health insurance and SNAP Benefits programs. The Healthy Start Program is a community-based prenatal and parenting home-visiting program which provides socio-emotional support, perinatal and health education, depression screening, and linkages to basic and medical needs. MCHC’s Family Center serves economically disadvantaged families and their children birth to five-years old through home-visiting services to provide early learning skills, group educational activities, developmental screenings, and resource linkages. Both Healthy Start and Family Center Programs follow the evidence-based Parents as Teachers (PAT) curriculum.

Our program participants include a significant number of Latino and African American individuals as poverty, low educational attainment, and lack of access to health care and resources disproportionately affects these communities. Funding support will allow us to sustain our services for participants remotely either through (IVC) interactive video conferencing using WhatsApp application to have two way, real time, audiovisual communication between Parent Educator and Family (parent and target child and others) or through telecommunication (audio phone calls) and following the guidelines from PAT curriculum during this difficult time; ensuring staff is able to share important COVID-19 information as the situation evolves. Funding will cover additional program expenses accrued as a result of this outbreak such as extra printing materials for staff to print at home, as well as diapers, formula, and food box donations for participants. Just in the past week, MCHC staff have delivered over 25 food boxes from local food banks to program participants throughout Chester County and we estimate an increasing need in the coming weeks. Family Benefit Specialists continue completing health insurance and SNAP benefits enrollments on a daily basis. While many other local human service organizations are closed as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, our capacity to support families virtually allowed us to adjust our program structure within a week. Our staff is able to support the majority of parents who are at home with their children, and provide them with interactive activities that are conducive to their children’s learning and development. In addition, staff are directing and providing different resources including healthcare access to families in the different communities countywide.

MCHC respectfully requests $5,000 in funding support that will be used within 3-4 months of receipt for expenses that support our program infrastructure so that we can continue serving families in need across Chester and Montgomery Counties.
Please email grants@chesocf.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@chesocf.org.

Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.