



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.





28 W. Market Street, Lincoln Biography Building
West Chester, PA 19382
610.696.8211 www.chescocf.org

COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request

Date: 3.23.2020

Contact Information

Organization Name: Best Buddies in Pennsylvania

Address: 640 Freedom Business Center Drive, Suite 115 | King of Prussia, PA 19406

Phone: 888-604-7376

Website: www.bestbuddies.org/pennsylvania

FEIN: 52-1614576

ED/CEO Name: Milli Protheroe

ED/CEO E-mail: milliprotheroe@bestbuddies.org

Board Chair Name: Meghan Cartmell

Primary Contact Name: Milli Protheroe

Primary Contact E-mail: milliprotheroe@bestbuddies.org

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?**

Geographic Area Served *(If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):*

Best Buddies serves all of Chester County

Population Served and Impact of COVID-19

Best Buddies programs address the needs of students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This population – including children and adults with Down Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Fragile X, Williams Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, traumatic brain injury and other disabilities - experience extreme loneliness, bullying and social limitations due to diminished opportunities for interaction and relationship-building with non disabled peers. We currently serve over 1,000 students in 19 middle schools, high schools, and colleges throughout Chester County.

Best Buddies in Pennsylvania is feeling the effects of COVID-19 programmatically and economically. Our participants are more isolated than ever before. We are working tirelessly to provide virtual supports to our school friendship programs and to keep buddies connected while practicing social distancing outside of school. Friendship matches are hanging out from the comfort of their own homes. They are using online resources such as Google Hangouts, ZOOM and Skype to participate in virtual activities. Staff are creating regularly scheduled check-ins with participants to ensure social distancing/isolation is not having an impact on their mental health and well-being. We are continuing to encourage and monitor buddy pairs to connect regularly and we are also encouraging all participants to join our e-Buddies online pen-pal program in an effort to keep them engaged with their community. We believe that our friendship program is more vital than it has ever been before and we are committed to being there to support our participants with IDD as they navigate this current crisis.

Funding requested

Each spring, Best Buddies in Pennsylvania hosts a Friendship Walk which is an annual event that brings awareness to our programs and is a major fundraiser that supports our operations within the state. Due to COVID-19, we were forced to move this event to a virtual walk. While we are optimistic that this event will bring in some revenue, we know it will be nowhere close to what is needed. We estimate that our losses will be close to \$30,000. We are requesting support in the amount of \$5,000 from the Chester County Community Foundation which will be used to support the ongoing operation of our programs in Chester County. Funding will help us retain program staff who will continue to oversee our friendship matches and ensure our participants with IDD are being contacted on a regular basis and being included in as many virtual activities as possible.

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