



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

CCCCF 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: 03/27/2020

Contact Information

Organization Name: Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence
Address: 1760 Constitution Drive, Suite 10
Eagleview Corporate Center
Exton, PA 19341
Phone: 484-653-1450
Website: www.independencebigs.org
FEIN: 23-1352034

ED/CEO Name: Marcus Allen

ED/CEO E-mail: mallen@independencebigs.org

Board Chair Name: Lloyd Freeman

Primary Contact Name: Marcus Allen

Primary Contact E-mail: mallen@independencebigs.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)*

Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence provides services in all area of Chester County. At the current time, the majority (22) of youth in our one-to-one mentoring program reside in Coatesville. There are 11 youth served in West Chester and another 9 served in Downingtown. The remainder of youth served live in various areas throughout the county. Youth in our program primarily live in low-income areas.

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

Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence (BBBSI) provides mentoring services to approximately 3,100 children annually in 3 New Jersey counties (Camden, Burlington and Gloucester) and 4 Pennsylvania counties (Philadelphia, Montgomery, Chester and Delaware). 86% of our youth live in low-income households, with 69% living without both parents. 88% identify as a race other than Caucasian. Since our founding in 1915, BBBSI has effectively changed the lives of more than 125,000 children throughout the region. As one of the preeminent youth-serving organizations in the Delaware Valley, we work collaboratively with schools, universities, churches, businesses and government to leverage community resources to address the needs of youth facing adversity through carefully screened and professionally supported volunteer mentors. We partner with parents and guardians, volunteers and others to help improve the lives of children.

In these unusual circumstances, our children need us more than ever. Our families are facing job and food insecurities, a lack of educational support systems, and general anxieties over the pandemic. Due to social distancing and school closures, our matches cannot meet in person during this time. We have stood with our children in crisis before, and we will not fail them now.

Since the outbreak, our team has been:

- Recommending that Bigs and Littles continue their mentoring relationship by virtually meeting together through, telephone, email, text and web-conferencing programs and providing them with virtual activity ideas
- Continuing to support vital match mentoring relationships virtually through telephone, e-mail, and text
- Linking our families to urgently needed resources and services; updating this information on a weekly basis
- Providing professional support to our young people and their families in the face of quarantines

Until they can see each other face-to-face, we will do everything we can to maintain these connections.

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?**

Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence is respectfully requesting \$5,000 in funding from the Chester County Community Foundation. This is less than 1% of our annual budget. We expect to use funds immediately upon receipt.

Funding will be used to alter our service delivery in such a way that our matches can continue to stay connected during this time. This will immediately and effectively help us continue these crucial relationships and professional services. Over 95% of our children value the relationship with their mentor, and we have already heard from our families that our efforts have helped relieve stress, break up monotony from being quarantined, and given some educational enrichment in several of our service areas where educational equity could not be guaranteed.

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