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: 3/28/2020

**Contact Information**
- **Organization Name:** YoungMoms
- **Address:** P.O. Box 376, Kennett Square, PA 19348
- **Phone:** 484.734.0285
- **Website:** www.youngmomscommunity.com
- **FEIN:** 47-5319831

- **ED/CEO Name:** Linda Mercner
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- **Board Chair Name:** Casey Irwin
- **Primary Contact Name:** Molly Henry
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**COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request**

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)**
   YoungMoms serves pregnant and parenting young women throughout Southern Chester County, including Kennett Square, West Grove, Avondale, and Oxford.

2. **What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**
   YoungMoms inspires and equips young moms to build thriving futures for themselves and their families. Our clients enter the program between 14 and 21 years old. Many face huge challenges, including: incomplete education, unemployment, housing instability, domestic violence, language barriers, isolation, and lack of health care. The majority of our participants are immigrants from Mexico and Central America or first-generation Mexican-Americans; many lack the family support or resources they need to navigate complex educational and social service systems. Without additional support, it is immensely difficult for a young mother to complete her education, access the medical/social/financial resources available to her, and become financially independent.

   A lack of basic necessities like food, diapers, safe & affordable housing, and medical care are often the leading factors that limit the young women in our program from reaching their potential, not only as women, but also as mothers. We recognize that without first meeting the basic needs of our young moms, it is impossible to move them toward the personal, academic, and vocational goals necessary to become self-sufficient.

   The COVID-19 crisis has only exacerbated these needs because our young moms’ safety net is already so thin. The challenges presented by COVID-19 have been acutely felt by nearly all of our young moms and their children. Most are low-wage service workers/hourly employees who have now lost their jobs or experienced drastically-reduced work hours. These young women were already living paycheck to paycheck while navigating very difficult life circumstances; with reduced/lost income, they are struggling to make ends meet. We anticipate that the needs of our young moms will only increase as the days and weeks of financial scarcity stretch on. In the last two weeks, we have provided Walmart gift cards, diapers, and wipes to each of our clients. Case managers have been working closely (but remotely) with each client to understand the importance of social distancing/hygiene, to address needs as they arise, and to make plans to address all the additional challenges this crisis brings. We have also created a detailed spreadsheet monitoring the emerging needs of each young mom and the financial/material support they will require in order to maintain housing, pay bills, and access necessary goods like food, diapers, and wipes. We are working closely with other area social service organizations to collaborate and eliminate duplication of services.

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?**

   YoungMoms is requesting $5,000 to provide our most at-risk clients with emergency rent assistance, help with medical expenses and insurance payments, utility bills, transportation costs, food, diapers, wipes, and other necessities. Our desire is to identify the most acute needs among our young moms, connect them to available community/government assistance, and step in to provide emergency support where gaps exist. This funding request equals 1.24% of our operating budget. Since many of our young moms have already experienced job loss or drastically reduced work hours, their financial needs are mounting. These emergency funds would be disbursed immediately to those who qualify.
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.