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.
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)**
   - Chester County Futures serves the following school districts in Chester County:
     - Coatesville School District
     - Kennett School District
     - Oxford School District
     - Phoenixville School District

2. **What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**
   - Chester County Futures serves economically disadvantaged students in Chester County. All of our students qualify for their district’s free or reduced lunch program.
   - COVID-19 has caused numerous challenges for Chester County Futures.
     - Our students have been forced out of school
     - We have had to cancel all experiential learning engagements
     - We have had to suspend our on-campus partnership with West Chester University
     - All of our site visits have been canceled
     - All of our remaining college visits have been canceled
     - Initial disruption in communication and programming for our coordinators
   - Chester County Futures has responded by overcoming a lot of challenges over the last few weeks to continue to provide our students with quality and much-needed services.
     - We have transitioned to virtual and digital programming with much success to report.
     - Our student programming normally occurs in a face to face setting in school. Our Coordinators have successfully implemented the use of multiple forms of communication. We use phone calls, text, video and group chat, direct messaging and email.
     - In the last few weeks, we have found that the school districts are mainly providing the students with review activities. This has propelled our programming to the forefront in providing essential learning and development skills in this time of need.
     - The students have been very responsive to our efforts and truly appear to be impacted and appreciative that we have managed to continue meeting their programming needs.
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?

- We are seeking $5,000.00 in funding.
- Our annual operating budget is $859,832. The requested grant would serve as .0058% of our operating budget.
- The funds will be used to meet our payroll in these challenging times.
- The funds will be used in the fiscal calendar year.

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