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# COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request

Date: 03/24/2020

**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?**



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

## CHILD CARE RELIEF PROGRAM

You Care for Us, We Care for Your Kids

**GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED** - The Phoenixville YMCA serves a 56.1 square mile area including parts of Chester and Montgomery Counties. Open to everyone in the community, we serve over 12,000 members who are predominately Caucasian (83%), Asian (6%), African American (6.5%), and Hispanic (5%) individuals. This branch is a second home to many families in the area, creating safe places that nurture the well-being of individuals of all ages.

Chester County Hospital alone has 2,642 employees, without whose services the healthcare system cannot effectively support the patients and families they serve. Other healthcare services have numerous employees who are also performing under pressure while at the same time managing family and child care arrangements. Regardless of race, ethnicity, income level or religious affiliation, we'll be serving employees coming from Chester County Hospital as well as other medical facilities in the areas adjacent to our Phoenixville location.

**Statement of Need** - What are we doing as a society to make sure healthcare professionals fulfill their own families' needs?

As health officials work around the clock to quickly track the spread of the disease, giving vulnerable populations vital information, healthcare workers are on the front lines looking out for their communities. With schools and various daycare centers being closed, healthcare professionals have to figure out childcare situations as they continue having to go into their hospital or medical facility to work each day. If the pandemic mitigation strategy

persists for a long time, as most epidemiologists forecast, we need to take action to prevent healthcare workers' family structures from collapsing.

**WHAT POPULATION IS SERVED** - The Greater Philadelphia YMCA is now permitted by Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia to provide childcare (Pre-K and K-12) for location-specific healthcare workers at all of its locations. This is being made available to many hospitals and medical facilities in the area, including Chester County Hospital, with its 2,642 employees, who offer more than 200,000 outpatient visits to the community. Without proper care for their children, healthcare professionals are themselves in a fragile and even dangerous position, and will slowly not be able to be part of the healthcare system supporting the patients and families they serve.

Our team is carefully examining every single step of the way to guarantee that children, teachers and volunteers will engage in safety and health protocols during this time, including proper handwashing, cleaning procedures and appropriate social distancing. We are hiring nurses and healthcare professionals to make sure the highest standards of safety are met. Moreover, we're limiting group sizes and have already implemented a pre-screening process for all those who are to get involved in the program.

Being the largest provider of Child Care in Pennsylvania, serving over 5,000 children each year in 16 branches and 83 child care sites, the Greater Philadelphia YMCA team is ready to take on this enormous challenge. Throughout the year, our early learning, special needs, health and education experts focus on preparing children for a successful transition to Kindergarten. In the Pre-K Care Relief Program, our team will use the same framework and engage in high-quality care utilizing best practices available in instruction and curriculum. As for the K-12 Care Relief Program, we'll draw from some of our staple programs, such as Soccer for Success, to provide physical activity and academic enrichment. We are including homework guidance and other engaging educational activities to help children explore their abilities, gain independence, and socialize while their families are away, even knowing that we are all together collectively experiencing a public health crisis.

**FUNDING SOUGHT & TIMEFRAME FOR USE** - A \$5,000 grant from The Chester County Community Foundation will enable our Phoenixville Early Learning Center to provide child care and school age programming to healthcare professionals' children while they are at work. In the face of an unprecedented collective challenge posed by the coronavirus, fear has escalated sharply. During times of uncertainty, it can become difficult to offer reassuring news without conveying false hopes. YMCA's Child Care Relief Program is a genuine hope. It is fostering cooperation in the creation of a support network for healthcare professionals' families. With the Program, we are leveraging YMCA's partnerships and long history of offering high-quality Child Care to serve our fellow caretakers when they need us the most.

The Greater Philadelphia YMCA leadership is finalizing all programmatic, financial and logistical details and should be able to run its Phoenixville Early Learning Centers starting on Monday, March 23. Although we're enthusiastic about our program as an important palliative to offer more structure to healthcare professionals, we understand that experts forecast that we're facing a long-term crisis. Our more direct costs are with staffing at \$13.50 per hour, eight hours a day, for a team of five; and one full time maintenance employee at \$18 per hour. We can provide a detailed budget of each Early Learning Center site total cost for 25 kids, which amounts to \$18,304. That said, we would start using funds from the Chester County Community Foundation immediately to cover operational costs with personnel and materials and will keep seeking support from individuals, government, businesses and private foundations for as long as our community needs our services.

*The Greater Philadelphia YMCA is thankful to the Chester County Community Foundation for its consideration of this request.*