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COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request

Date:

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)

Our client base is located throughout Chester County but a majority of clients are located in the greater Coatesville and West Chester area.

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

With the requested funding, we are specifically looking to support Project ONE, Zoom Driver Program, and Exchange Club Family Center clients. Project ONE is a case management program for HIV-positive individuals in Chester County who need assistance in obtaining medical care, counseling, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, food, and housing. ZOOM is a volunteer driver transportation program that partners with area social services to meet the transportation needs of its clients and patients. The Exchange Club Family Center (ECFC) is a parenting support and child abuse prevention program for mothers and fathers in Chester County with children ages infant through age 12.

In order to adapt to the COVID-19 restrictions, Family Service of Chester County has been proactive in ensuring continuity of services despite state wide closures and recommended public health practices. Our client's wellbeing is still our number one priority.

The population served are people living with HIV/AIDS and the income level for 90%+ our clients is at or below the federal poverty line. Our clients have supplemental medical needs which require additional doctor appointments and access to transportation. Our clients often face financial instability due to low paying jobs and especially during a crisis. Unfortunately, their employment is at risk due to the closure of any non-essential businesses. Our Project ONE clients are incredibly vulnerable in the COVID-19 pandemic. This virus is deadly for immunocompromised individuals. Our clients are required to take exceedingly precautionary steps in order to stay safe.

"Richard", a Project One client, lost his employment due to the Covid-19 business closures (potentially 4-8 weeks or more) and he is facing eviction if his rent is not paid by March 31. With the reality of eviction and potentially facing homelessness, his continuity of medical care could be interrupted which can lead to life threatening complications. In order to safeguard our clients medical care, Family Service is dedicated to providing the necessary resources to keep our clients healthy and medical care current.

The Zoom program is identifying ways to continue providing transportation to clients in need. The majority of our drivers are senior citizens who are at risk of developing serious complications with Covid-19, therefore the program was halted. Regardless, clients still need to get to medical appointments. In order to keep going, Family Service is seeking alternative modes of transportation services such as Uber or local taxi companies. This funding would keep this program going until normal operations could resume.

The Exchange Club Family Center has 27 client families (75+ people) and all live under the federal poverty line. Margie H, the ECFC's Social Worker, is in direct relationship with these families and many of them already expressed hardships due to

school closures, loss of employment, and food security. ECFC is devoted to helping our clients cover basic needs such as food, shelter, and utilities in this challenging season.

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?

Family Service of Chester County is humbly asking for \$5,000 for the COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant. \$4,500 of the request would be to fill our "Concrete Needs" fund for our Project One, Zoom, and ECFC programs and \$500 to offset the purchase of ZOOM's HIPAA compliant video platform to ensure clients can still receive medical case management and counseling. According to our 2019-20 budget this grant request is less than 1% of our annual budget (\$1,864,677).

The requested amount of \$4,500 would go directly to clients with the most pressing and urgent needs first. In cooperation with the Program Directors and case managers, the team would identify clients on a needs-based scale with housing and basic necessities being most important. Family Service is committed to exhausting all existing community-based resources and partnerships before using funds in order to maximize effectiveness. An example of this would be to help connect a client to a local food pantry before helping them buy food. The requested funds would be used to help cover costs associated with client housing, utilities, and other pressing unforeseen financial realities.

The Zoom HIPAA compliant video platform is \$199 per month plus \$20 per additional case manager (We are planning on two months and 5 case managers). This software is crucial to the wellbeing of our clients and necessary for proper medical case management.

With daily changes Covid-19 is bringing, Family Service understands client's needs are urgent. Program Directors are committed to distributing funds swiftly over the next few weeks to the clients with most pressing needs first.

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@chescof.org.

Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.