



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

## 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.





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

Date:

### **Contact Information**

Organization Name: The Garage Community & Youth Center  
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Phone: 610-444-6464  
Website: [www.garageyouthcenter.org](http://www.garageyouthcenter.org)  
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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)*  
The Garage Community & Youth Center has worked tirelessly as a pillar of the southern Chester County community for almost two decades. The Garage provides youth development programs to community youth 6th through 12th grades, year-round, free of charge. The youth of Kennett Square and West Grove regions along with other surrounding areas are embraced by the service and programs the Garage offers year-round. The mission of The Garage is to empower youth to pursue their potential academically, relationally, and spiritually. Our desired impact is to help youth make wise decisions about themselves, their core convictions, their relationships, their educational pursuits, and interactions with their communities and to begin a cycle of hopefulness by acknowledging and taking steps to overcome life challenges, engage in Garage programs, trusting The Garage as a second home.
- 2. What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**  
The Garage serves a diverse group of students, comprised of 74% Latino, 6% African American, 10% Mixed race, and 10% Caucasian. The Garage focuses on growing our programming and organization to meet their needs. Over 85% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch and rely on the meals provided during school and Garage program hours. With the outbreak of COVID-19, our students have been displaced from school and our after-school programming, causing them to miss opportunities for food, social engagement, academic assistance, emotional support, and enrichment. Garage students are faced with multiple traumas in today's political climate. Our students live in a world with a deep controversy around policies surrounding immigration and are directly affected by this climate. Garage youth carry a heavy emotional and mental burden with threats of deportation, parental deportation, and other legal action. The Garage population includes students who have their DACA and if changes are made to the policy, the trajectory of our students lives could be deeply altered.

Without the disruption of COVID-19, our students already face insurmountable challenges every day. The interruptions of routine by COVID-19 are life altering to our youth population. The Garage staff has been working with local school districts and the Kennett Area Community Service to collect donations, distribute meals, deliver supplies, and promote awareness of additional county services.

While our centers are physically closed, there is still much work being done to serve our youth and our families, who are in need of support now more than ever! Garage staff have risen to the challenges of our situation with love, hope, and great care. In the last three days, The Garage has risen to this unique challenge with the following actions:

Garage staff have:

- Helped alumni at WCU who needed transportation moving out during the designated time
- Called all of our parents to check in and ensure they have access to information, resources, and food.
- Made several trips to the Hilton Garden Inn Kennett Square to pick up excess supplies and delivered those groceries to our families with the greatest immediate needs
- Checked in with our students and addressing their anxiety and concerns
- Set up daily activities to keep our youth engaged on social media
- Connected with Avon Grove and Kennett School Districts for "Grab and Go" student meal communications
- Coordinated with Kennett Consolidated School District to be a meal distribution site at the Kennett Square Garage, Monday through Friday from 11am-1pm
- Created a [bilingual community resource Google Doc](#) which we have been updating and sharing via social media.

All of the for mentioned measures will keep our students, their families, and our community safer and more resourced today and in the next few weeks.

**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?**

The Garage staff are working harder than ever on the front lines of the community to provide hope and engagement while our doors are closed. For the foreseeable future, we plan on providing the following to our students and community:

1. Each Garage staff members is responsible for communication and support of a group of our students, this means homework checks, mental and emotional support, and academic assistance through virtual communication.
2. The Garage's two Volunteer Coordinators are connecting with volunteers for remote tutoring, SAT prep, and mentoring
3. The Garage's Graduate Coordinator is continuing to provide communication for Career Compass students with summer employment opportunities and continuing forward with SAT prep, applications, and financial aid for post-secondary education.
4. Garage staff will be providing self-care workshops for students through Facebook Live and Instagram TV to ensure they have access to mental health tools during this extremely stressful time.
5. Garage Staff will be providing remote enrichment program workshops on Facebook Live and Instagram TV for students to attend and engage with daily, Monday through Friday. Programs will include, but not be limited to Girls Program, Boys Program, Career Presentations, Educational Workshops, Academic Enrichment,
6. Kennett Consolidated School District has offered to allow Garage staff to pick up school work from the district office and deliver to students without internet access.
7. A supply drive to support the requests of the community for basic household supplies (diapers, soap, toilet paper, etc.). In an effort to streamline these requests, The Garage created a bilingual [online form](#) that families can complete. Garage staff will collect items and pack boxes for pick up each week on Tuesdays at the same pick up locations as the school lunches of Kennett and Avon Grove School districts.

The Garage Community & Youth Center respectfully requests \$5,000 to fund the salaries of our selfless and hard-working staff who are committed to working on the front lines of the community during this pandemic. The

funds would be used immediately upon receipt and would be an incredible assistance to the organization during this time. In 2020, our projected income is listed as \$722,934. The Garage recognizes that many of our individual and small business donors will be unable to make expected donations during this extremely unusual time. Fundraising will more of a challenge than ever before. The Garage is working with multiple partners and the entire southern Chester County community to ensure that our work continues and even expands to meet the community's needs during this pandemic.

Our staff, board, students, and community are so grateful for the opportunities provided to non-profits from The Chester County Community Foundation during this time and we looking forward to working together to create a brighter future every day.

***On behalf of our students, staff, board, and community, Thank You!***

Please email [grants@chescocf.org](mailto: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](mailto:grants@chescocf.org).  
Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.