



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

COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request

Date:

Contact Information

Organization Name: Charles A. Melton Center Arts and Education Ctr ED/CEO Name: Kenneth Winston
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1. What geographic area is served? (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served)

The historic Charles A. Melton Arts & Education Center serves the community of West Chester by providing educational, cultural, recreational, and civic programs. The Melton Center is located at 501 E. Miner Street in the East End of the West Chester Borough, where most of the families we serve reside. According to the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) and the U.S. Census Bureau, the poverty rate in the borough of West Chester is 27%, which is 400% higher than Chester County's overall poverty rate of 6.3%. Furthermore, West Chester's lower East End, where the Melton Center is located, is the community with the lowest median income in the borough. Over 95% of the students we serve in our after-school program qualify for free and reduced-price lunch.

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

The Melton Center serves a diverse population of students and families in the West Chester borough, with most residing in the lower East End, which is the lowest-income census tract in West Chester. Over 95% of the students we serve in our after-school program qualify for free and reduced-price lunch. Unfortunately, COVID-19 is likely to have wide-ranging economic, financial, educational, and health impacts on this population of families. Some challenges that families will likely face include, among others: loss of childcare due to school closures, loss of income due to reduced hours or workplace closures, lack of or inadequate health insurance, food insecurity, and risk of relapse for community members who were in recovery for addiction. The Charles A. Melton Center has had to close our building to the public in order to comply with national, state, and local public health recommendations to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our community, but our team is continuing to work to expand access to resources and support for our families. This includes partnering with other Chester County organizations such as the West Chester Area School District, Chester County Food Bank, and Safe Harbor of West Chester to collect and disseminate resources and information to the community.

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 a \$5,000 Collateral Damage Grant to help our organization withstand the tremendous financial challenge that closure due to COVID-19 presents for us. % of the Melton Center's income



CHESTER COUNTY
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CCCF COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grants

Per IRS Regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax exempt organizations with SOI(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.

comes from rental income. With the closure of our building, cancellation of events, and inability to collect rental income, we project a loss **of \$2,210.83** each week that the center is closed. If we project until the end of April we will lose a total of \$13,265 in total rental fees. This total does not include our long-term rentals such as the West Chester School District, Filet of Souls and Assembly of God Church. Depending on how long the COVID-19 crisis continues, we could face a financial crisis for our historic community center.

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.