



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: 03/26/2020

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Parkesburg POINT Youth Center
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Phone: 610-857-3393
Website: www.parkesburgpoint.com
FEIN: 03-0399261

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Board Chair Name: Dr. Jim Holt
Primary Contact Name: Sarah Daniels
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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 Parkesburg POINT (The POINT) serves youth and families from the greater Parkesburg area. Approximately 80% of students come from the Octorara School District and 20% travel from the neighboring Coatesville Area School District.

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

The POINT students predominantly come from single-family households, 90% of which fall below the poverty level for Chester County, and many have experienced immense trauma such as homelessness, transient housing conditions, mental, sexual or physical abuse, hunger, and/or parents addicted to drugs/alcohol. Consequently, students who come to The POINT are at risk for school drop-out, teen pregnancy, physical and mental health challenges, juvenile delinquency and experimentation with drugs or alcohol.

The impact of COVID-19 has been detrimental for our students. For most POINT students, home is not where they feel safe, it is not where hunger is fed, and it is not where they receive love and support. The mandate to shut our doors was heartbreaking; we know how desperately our students need us physically, emotionally and academically. Many of our student's parents have already lost their jobs due to employment in the service industry, and consequently emotions, fear and stress are running high.

Following school closures, The POINT hit the ground running by partnering with The Octorara School District and providing our parking lot as the pick-up site for youth ages 0-18 to come and pick up a boxed breakfast and lunch, M-F from 10:30-12:30PM. This will continue for the duration of the school closure. No family is turned away and youth can come from any school district. Additionally, staff have been working tirelessly, working with the Chester County Food Bank to collect food boxes and distribute them to families each day, and provide weekend backpack food on Fridays. Many of our students live in in remote mobile home communities throughout the county and do not have access to The POINT for pick-ups. The POINT has been delivering 80-120 food boxes daily in addition to food packs for the weekend. Staff have also been connecting with parents, inquiring about needs and addressing them on a case by case basis (rental assistance, utility assistance, gift cards, etc.). In 2 short weeks, The POINT will have spent nearly 50% of our \$20,000 Crisis and Compassion Fund which normally gets us through an entire year. In the weeks ahead, The POINT plans to continue providing crisis and compassion support to families to meet basic needs to ensure each child's health and safety and to reduce repetitive trauma (rental assistance, utilities, clothing, food, etc.) Additionally, The POINT has launched virtual small-group Bible Studies to connect students with staff and volunteers to ensure they continue to feel loved, supported and hopeful in a very unsettling time. POINT staff are currently assessing increased opportunities to connect and support students physically, academically and spiritually.

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 POINT's annual operating budget is \$950,000. The POINT respectfully requests an operating grant of \$5,000 to help us respond quickly and effectively to the needs of our community. Operating funds are especially important as we must now, more than ever, remain innovative. Operating funds allow us the flexibility to make program adjustments (i.e. Shifting to virtual support groups, tutoring sessions etc.) and respond to the ever-increasing needs of our community (whether it's helping with a rent payment, increasing our transportation costs to deliver more meals, etc.). Additionally, The POINT cancelled our Spring Banquet scheduled for April 3rd. This event traditionally raises over \$90,000 to provide operating funds for the Spring and Summer. This is a slow revenue season as many grants are due, but most funding is received in June/July. We hope to reschedule the banquet in the future, but that is heavily dependent on the longevity of COVID-19's impact on our community. Operating funds are most urgently needed for April – June.

Please email 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.
Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.