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

Date:

**Contact Information**

Organization Name: SILO- Serving, Inspiring and Loving Others

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Board Chair Name: Ed Herr

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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)*  
SILO focuses our work on southern Chester County, primarily Oxford and the surrounding area.
- 2. What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**  
SILO works with a variety of people, including those with mental illness, limited mobility, addictions, single parents, seniors, immigrants, and unemployed, underemployed or homeless individuals. We also help those who are mentally or financially stable and simply in need of friendship and support.

COVID-19 has limited face to face interactions with our friends in need. This limitation has been amplified by the two staff members (a married couple) temporarily self-isolating last week due to symptoms of coughing and fevers. This severe limitation forced us to get creative on how to deliver food when our usual monthly community meal was canceled.

We have partnered with local restaurants, who are struggling with their own limitations, by ordering meals for delivery on behalf of our friends in need. Despite a discount from local restaurants, this is still a more expensive avenue of food distribution compared to our monthly meals. With staff coming out of quarantine this week, we plan to take on the delivery of the meals from the restaurants to save some money as well as to reconnect with our friends in need (at a safe distance). We are calling this new program **Delivering Hope**.

Seeing the positive impact of this program already, we have decided that this will be a key area of focus in the coming months. In just one week of operation, **Delivering Hope** has delivered 128 meals to 55 households who are financially unstable. We reviewed our list of friends we usually help and narrowed down to a list of 200 households who are most vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19, both financially and medically. We are working to deliver meals to each of the households on this list. To ensure these families and individuals are relationally connected and their evolving needs heard, we are partnering people on this list with a volunteer who will call and check in on them regularly. This allows staff to focus on problem solving the most urgent situations. We are already seeing an increase in the basic needs of our friends who were challenged to hold onto financial stability before this crisis.

As needs evolve, we expect that **Delivering Hope** will become a delivery service for other physical needs such as prescriptions for seniors, groceries, and other needed supplies. We look forward to maintaining our collaborative partnerships with key non-profits in our area to provide wrap-around services for our friends, now more than ever.

- 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 requesting \$3,000 for various aspects of **Delivering Hope**. Our annual budget is \$187,365 and this represents roughly 1.6% of our budget. This funding would be used in the following ways:

- \$2,000 for meals purchased from local restaurants and delivered to friends needing food and connection

- \$500 for purchasing needed supplies as they become available, particularly: toilet paper, water filters, and groceries
- \$500 for a tablet or laptop for staff to stay connected with the people we serve and to track meals delivered. With the local library closes and limited technology at home, this mobile tablet could also be a source of technology for friends needing to apply for unemployment and rental assistance online.

In light of the uncertain timeline of the COVID-19 outbreak, we are preliminarily planning to having the **Delivering Hope** program in place for at least 3 months and will divide the resources over that period. If the current mandates for social distancing and limited work continues past three months, we will review additional opportunities for funding. If the timeline becomes abbreviated, we will use any remaining funds to further help the most vulnerable in our community as they re-stabilize after COVID-19 including job coaching, transportation and our free monthly meal for the community, which are part of our traditional services.



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