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COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request

Date: March 20, 2020

Contact Information

Organization Name: Valley Youth House
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Phone: 267-297-1597
Website: www.valleyyouthhouse.org
FEIN: 23-7178820

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Board Chair Name: Eric Luftig
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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)

Valley Youth House serves youth from all areas of Chester County. Services are provided at the agency's office located at 999 West Chester Pike, Suite 201, West Chester, PA 19382 and at a residential site also located in West Chester.

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

The agency serves youth involved in the juvenile justice and foster care systems, and youth experiencing homelessness. These youth lack traditional family resources including financial support and almost all have experienced abuse, neglect, and trauma. Chester County services currently include:

- Supervised Independent Living (SIL): SIL is a residential program that serves older transition-age youth (16-21) who are involved in the foster care or Juvenile Probation. Along with housing, SIL provides youth with support for basic needs like food, clothing, and transportation based on their level of individual need. Youth work with case managers for employment preparation, educational support, and life skills development to become independent adults by the time they are discharged from the program. Approximately 50 youth are served by the SIL annually.
- Adolescents Achieving Independence (AAI): AAI is an out-client program for youth in foster care who are over the age of 14. These youth work with staff on an individual basis to address a wide range of their current needs while also preparing for their future independence. Services include employment preparation, assistance in locating housing, life skills development, summer assistance, cultural and recreational events, and support in obtaining basic needs and accessing community resources. Over 100 Chester County youth are served each year.

Youth are being disconnected from school, work, and community resources that typically allow them to access items of basic need. In addition, the isolation measures required by the coronavirus has increased the needs for food, cleaning supplies, and other items to be available at the residential site because youth presence has increased to all times of the day. In response, the agency has designated a point person to contact all location supervisors on a daily basis to track what items are needed at each service location. These items are being tracked in a shared spreadsheet, which is being used to direct fundraising and donation requests. Agency development staff are in the process of soliciting emergency funds and in-kind donations from foundations, corporations, and individuals to meet these needs.

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 seek \$5,000 for items greatest need for Chester County youth. This funding represents less than .001% of the agency's overall budget of \$30.9 million and about .003% of the Chester County programs' budget of \$1.7 million. Funding will be used to purchase necessities for youth like food, clothing, cleaning supplies, and other household items. Additionally, if permitted, funding may also be used for items like games, puzzles, or crafting supplies to occupy youth during the period of isolation. If desired, purchases can be tracked and a full reporting of items bought through this funding can be provided at the end of the grant period. Funding is expected to expended over the next three months.

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.