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.
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)
   Canine Partners for Life (CPL) is based in Cochranville in Chester County, PA. CPL service and companion dogs are placed throughout the United States, however our primary efforts are focused on an area within a 250 mile radius of our location. Over the last 31 years of operations, CPL has placed more than 750 service and companion dogs nationwide and has more than 200 active partnerships across the US.

2. What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?
   CPL is dedicated to our mission of increasing the independence and quality of life of individuals with physical, developmental, and cognitive disabilities, or who are in other situations of need, by training and placing service and companion dogs to assist these individuals. The disabilities that our graduates live with may cause mobility challenges and balance disorders, difficulty using their hands and/or arms, or health-related fatigue issues. They also face challenges which stem from seizures, cardiac syncope, and diabetes. CPL works with individuals to partner them with highly trained and certified full service and companion dogs.

   Recipients typically wait 2 to 4 years to hear they have been matched with a dog that meets their needs and are then required to attend a two-and-a-half week, 6-hour a day training on-site in Cochranville where professional trainers teach the dog and person to work as a team. When news of the COVID-19 outbreak and necessary precautions where announced, CPL made the devastating decision to cancel the Spring 2020 Team Training and Graduation just days before our teams were scheduled to arrive. Considering the diverse disabilities of the individuals we serve and the expected severity of the spread of COVID-19, we couldn’t risk the health and well-being of our recipients despite the long wait they had already endured. Seven full service dogs, 4 home companion dogs, 1 courthouse dog, and 1 breeder were scheduled to graduate on April 5th with recipients from other towns in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Tennessee, New York, and California. The Spring teams will be participating with their selected canine partners in the Summer Team Training and Graduation if recommendations by the Center for Disease Control, Pennsylvania State and Chester County Health Departments allow.

   In addition, CPL has had to close its campus beginning March 15th until at least April 6th, to help facilitate social distancing and self-quarantine protocols. CPL is continuing its work, remotely, and has hopes that when this crisis has passed we will be able to facilitate a joint Spring/Summer Graduation. CPL is committed to providing lifelong support to our Teams and this support is critical during this crisis. This grant will provide critical collateral damage funding to help mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on CPL and the people we seek to serve.

   CPL’s Team Training and Graduations are held in the spring, summer, and fall of each year, raising approximately $15,000 for general operating from individual donations, logo and treat sales, and corporate and foundation sponsors. The cancellation of the Spring Team Training and Graduation has impacted our fundraising in the remaining months of our fiscal year.
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?

CPL is requesting a grant of $4,582 to help address the impact of COVID-19. The Spring Graduation event is a sponsored event and generates significant income for CPL through graduate's friends and family, volunteers, and corporate sponsorship and foundation donations. Each of these events generates approximately $5,000, of which $3,300 has already been raised. The unanticipated mailers for canceling this event cost an additional $882, which has increased the deficit created by this event. CPL makes a lifelong commitment to our teams, and CPL continues to communicate, train, and support our graduate teams. The impact shifting this to a remote setting has been challenging and the financial impact has not yet been isolated. For this reason, CPL is seeking an additional $2,000 to support our graduate coordination.

CPL has an annual budget of approximately $1,536,883, however it is events like our Spring Graduation that help us to increase our public profile, recognize our volunteers, and celebrate the support we have received. The cancellation of this event will have a reverberating effect and this grant will help to address the immediate gap in CPL's funding.

CPL anticipates to use these funds within 1 month of receipt and will allocate this funding towards general operating support. Helping us to remain active as a support to our teams throughout the US as they navigate this crisis.

We hope that you will continue your support of CPL with a grant for $4,582 in support of CPL's general operating expenses which funds all of our programs. Your support will help mitigate the effects of canceling our Spring Graduation and the necessary increased coordination and support efforts for our recipients, graduates, and supporters. This grant will directly contribute to CPL's sustainability during this critical time.

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.