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)
   All of Chester County.

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

   Population served is women in Chester County who are housing unstable or homeless.

   Impact of COVID-19. Home of the Sparrow serves women at risk of experiencing homelessness. Our women are members of the ALICE constituency (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) and are being impacted by COVID-19 in the most direct way – they are suddenly without income and some have lost their jobs. As members of the hourly labor force (food service, child or elderly care, retail, for example), they are employed by companies that have shut down or significantly reduced their hours of operation. In about two weeks, all our clients will face rent payments and utility bills with no income.

   How we have responded. The Board of Directors has authorized access to the organization’s savings to cover additional rental subsidies required by the women currently enrolled in our Supportive Housing Program (which provides up to a year of rent subsidies while a women works on increasing her income and decreasing her expenses). However, we anticipate a spike in the number of new clients seeking eviction prevention funds. On average, we provide $3,800/month in emergency funds to prevent imminent evictions. By mid-April, we expect that the need will exceed $9,000.

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?

   How much funding is sought? We have canceled our June 12 gala, which nets $160,000, to focus on the immediate and dire needs of women and mothers in Chester County. Based on the anticipated gap detailed above ($3,800 vs. $9,000) we know we need at least $5,200 more per month. Would the Foundation consider a grant of $5,000 to fund one month of need?

   Use of Funds. The funds will be used to help women and mothers who are not already clients; those who find themselves suddenly unemployed or with lower income and unable to pay rent on time.

   Timeframe. We would use the funds immediately. To prepare for the following months, we launching a social media campaign to dovetail with the May 5 Giving Tuesday as well as to educate the community on the needs of their neighbors. In addition, we are writing and designing (in house) a newsletter to send to all 1,000 of our active donors, friends, clients and graduates to (1) announce the cancelation of the gala, (2) list the ways people can help – gift cards and donations of paper goods – and (3) to make an ask of all who are in a financial position to donate cash. We estimate that between these efforts and the applications being made to grantmakers, we will be able to continue meeting the increase in needs via other sources. Thank you!
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.