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)** CASA serves all of Chester County and all of Delaware County, this request is for Chester County only.

2. **What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?** CASA serves abused and neglected children who have been adjudicated dependent in Chester County. CASA has a Chester County office in West Chester to serve Chester County children. These children are between the ages of birth and 21 years. During 2019, CASA served 48 Chester County children on 36 cases with 25 active volunteers. A case is one child or sibling group. In the first two weeks since the covid 19 pandemic reached Delaware and Chester Counties, CASA has spent $2500 to support the emergency needs of children assigned to CASA. The purchases made span a wide range of needs. They include purchasing 3 chromebooks for children who needed them to continue to participate in school, purchasing food gift cards for older youth who lost their part or fulltime jobs due to the closure of businesses, purchasing ride share gift cards for a youth to get to a medical appointment and a psychiatric visit when the person who had been providing transportation was no longer able to do so due to covid 19, purchasing baby wipes and diapers for a teen mother living in a group home and paying for a motel stay and food for a runaway youth who contacted her CASA advocate saying she was homeless. CASA needs to be able to respond to these needs in real time, not in the bureaucratic time it takes to process payments for such items through county government processes. In addition, the child’s CASA advocate is frequently the first person the child contacts for help when an emergency arises. These requests are rapidly increasing. As noted above, CASA is responding by purchasing the items the child needs and making sure that the child receives those items, whatever they may be.

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?** CASA is requesting $5,000 to continue to support these emergency needs during this crisis. CASA’s annual budget is $1,746,665. However, the fund used to support these types of expenses is only $12,697 and it is being rapidly depleted. This funding will be used to pay for the emergency needs of Chester County children assigned to CASA for the duration of this crisis. CASA has an internal process used to approve these types of expenses that is rapid and real time sensitive so that we can be the first responder for whatever the unique needs of our children are. We expect that these funds will begin to be expended immediately upon receipt and will be used by December 31, 2020.
Please email grants@chesco cf.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@chesco cf.org.

Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.