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

Date: April 9, 2020

Contact Information

Organization Name: Wings for Success
Address: PO Box 1184, Frazer, PA 19355
Phone: 610-644-6323
Website: www.wingsforsuccess.org

ED/CEO Name: Jill Laufenberg
ED/CEO E-mail: jill@wingsforsuccess.org
Board Chair Name: Julie Ammon, President
Primary Contact Name: officer@wingsforsuccess.org

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

In 2019, Wings for Success assisted 849 women in accessing professional clothing, advice, and practical support for the workplace. 74% of those women came from Chester County. Both of our locations are on two different ends of Chester County, yet women will travel from Philadelphia, Montgomery and Delaware Counties because we are the only organization that offers our services at no cost to the individual or the non-profit.

During this COVID-19 crisis, we have continued our services remotely while meeting community needs with emergency clothing, medical scrubs to health care workers and one-on-one counseling by phone. With unemployment rising every day, we are anticipating a demand for our services once employers are ready to hire again. We provide advice sessions to guide those looking for employment, workshops on interviewing skills, clothing for their interviews, and once the client has procured employment, we provide up to two-weeks-worth of clothing for their job. We anticipate at least twice the amount of women seeking our services than usual and our concern is being able to equip every woman with their specific clothing needs. The items that are necessary for us to purchases and we cannot accept donated are bras, underwear, socks, medical scrubs and medical footwear.

We are asking for $5,000 to assist us with immediate financial losses at this time. Our operating budget for 2020 is $447,509 and we rely on fundraisers to bring in $120,000. Our first fundraiser was scheduled for May while it has been turned into a virtual event, it is a loss we did not anticipate. Our largest fundraiser is scheduled for October 9th, and we have not started soliciting sponsors or auction items. Even if we can hold this fundraiser, we expect a huge loss in support due to the non-essential businesses that are typically our source of sponsorship and auction items. This collateral damage is not something we are sure we can recover from without community assistance.

Please email 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.
Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.