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: 4/2/2020

Contact Information
Organization Name: Domestic Violence Center of Chester County
Address: P.O. Box 832, West Chester, PA 19381
Phone: 610-431-3546
Website: www.dvccpa.org
FEIN: 22-2606511

ED/CEO Name: Dr. Dolly Wideman-Scott, Ed.D.
ED/CEO E-mail: dwideman-scott@dvccpa.org
Board Chair Name: Jean Francois
Primary Contact Name: Terry Moody
Primary Contact E-mail: tmoody@dvccpa.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)
   The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC) serves all of Chester County.

2. What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?
   Founded in 1976, the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County is the only organization in Chester County that has the contract with the PA Dept. of Human Services and the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence to provide services to victims and their dependent children that present their primary victimization as domestic violence, which includes family and/or relationship violence such as intimate partner violence, dating violence, human trafficking, elderly family and/or intimate partner violence. Services include 24 hour crisis hotline; emergency shelter/safe house; transitional and independent housing programs; adult individual and group trauma-informed counseling; Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in partnership with Chester County law enforcement; legal advocacy and representation, children's counseling and programs; community outreach and education, relocation services; and referrals to other resources as needed for our participants.

   COVID-19 has presented an unprecedented hardship directly to the victims we serve concerning their safety and physical and mental well-being, and to our organization with a significant decrease in our core mission support:
   - With the shelter in place order, victims are more at risk for experiencing domestic violence. Stress can be a trigger for abuse, and victims now have fewer options for alternate safe housing.
   - The majority of our participants living in our Emergency Shelter/Safe House and other housing programs have always been low-income, but now are not able to work at all. This added stress negatively affects their physical and mental well-being. This applies to the hundreds of victims we serve not in our housing programs as well.
   - With the social distancing order, we need to move current families out of our shelter and put them into separate hotel rooms and provide hotel room options for new homeless victims. Gift cards must be provided for food and basic necessities.
   - As an organization we had to cancel our major fundraising event, which was projected to bring in $90,000 to support our core mission. Funding in general is down as the economy is in this downswing.

   During this COVID-19 outbreak, DVCCC is focusing on continuing to be a life sustaining organization providing emergency shelter and transitional housing and legal assistance. Our counselor/advocates are working 24/7 answering our crisis hotline and helping victims to develop safety plans. Our administrative staff is taking steps to ensure the facility is a clean and safe environment for both participants and staff. We are also researching additional safe housing options for victims.
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 are respectfully requesting $10,000 (organization budget of $2,552,452) to be used to support our core services and to support hotel cost for victims to allow us to keep families safe and to be in compliance with the Governor’s social distancing order. Hotels with mini kitchens for families are $500/week - $650.00/week. We currently have 6 families that are moving into hotels. We are also looking for gift cards and funding for food for the families in the hotels.

We are also in need of financial support to purchase UV air filters for our common spaces and mobile acrylic medical shield/barriers. Acrylic shields/barriers have been designed to effectively help protect direct service professionals from the transmission of infectious diseases. Having a physical barrier that is easily moved will allow us to protect both staff and clients from possible disease transmission while continuing to provide face to face services when needed. These will be utilized by our Emergency/Transitional Housing staff who assist in the operation of our 24/7 on-site housing programs and our Legal Advocates who are providing victims with preparation of PFAs and emergency custody orders.

We anticipate that we would use this funding within two weeks of receipt.

Please email [grants@chescocf.org](mailto: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](mailto:grants@chescocf.org). Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.