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?** All of our clients come from Chester County.

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

The Salvation Army Corps located in Coatesville and West Chester are both deeply impoverished. According to the US Census in 2018, Coatesville had a 28.2% poverty rate and West Chester had a rate of 26%, compared to 6.7% in Chester County overall. The Salvation Army Service Extension Units are spread throughout Chester County, serving Downingtown, Kennet Square, Oxford, West Grove, Spring City, Phoenixville, and Malvern. A disproportionate number of those impacted by this outbreak will likely be lower-income individuals or families or those experiencing homelessness, many of whom lack access to proper hygiene, updated information, medical resources, or care and who tend to have chronic medical issues which put them at risk. Now that individuals are sheltered in place, these community members lack the resources to stock up on the essentials. Many community members were living paycheck to paycheck, but now due to this crisis, they are experiencing fewer hours on the job or even termination, with little or no income to live on. There is no quarantine from hunger.

With shelter-in-place mandates from Governor Wolf now in place, The Salvation Army has transitioned its feeding services in order to limit person-to-person contact. In complying with local and state government recommendations and mandates, we are now using our “Corps at the Door” approach at all feeding facilities. Division-wide feeding programs are attempting to mitigate the spread of the virus by providing food items in boxes or bags that clients either: a) pick up outside of our facilities, or b) have our workers place into their car trunks while wearing gloves and practicing social distancing. Coatesville and West Chester Salvation Army are seeing a great increase in need for food from the food pantry. Coatesville has postponed hot lunch for safety reasons, but community members can still pick up boxes at the door, both in Coatesville and West Chester.

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 respectfully request $5,000 in funding from the Chester County Community Foundation, with which we will purchase the essential items needed to put into to-go boxes including: non-perishable bulk food such as pallets of rice, beans, canned vegetables and canned fruit, soup, peanut butter, breakfast bars, toilet paper, instant coffee, canned chicken and tuna, pasta sauce, jelly, and more. The funds will also be used to purchase boxes, bags, sanitizers, clamshell takeout containers, utensils, masks, and more items necessary for The Salvation Army to continue to serve the community. The amount of this request is about .11% of the annual operating budget.

The timeframe for the use of these funds will be to spend the funds as soon as they are received to help purchase the necessary food supplies to help the Chester County community members in need. We will use the funding until depleted. In the months that follow, The Salvation Army will continue to provide basic needs to those it already serves and anticipates it will also serve a new generation of need that is born out of the virus. Impact on the economy and workforce will likely force more Chester County residents to seek food, rental, utility, and other forms of assistance. Because we are called to go above and beyond in this critical time, we anticipate a greater need for funding to maintain our service to the community. Please help us stay on the front lines providing much-needed resources during this unprecedented health crisis. Your generous support will enable us to build a stronger response and give us greater capacity to serve those in need.
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.