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.
Date: 4/6/2020

Contact Information

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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?

As the leading financial capability organization in the Greater Philadelphia region, Clarifi is eager to serve families in Chester County affected by COVID-19. We are requesting a grant of 15,000 dollars to provide immediate emergency financial counseling for 75 families facing fallout from the virus, including lost income and unstable housing. As of March 16th, we have transitioned all of our staff to remote operations, providing our services at our normal business hours over the phone. We are also actively gathering and sharing resources to support our community through the economic ripple effect of this pandemic. In particular, we are focused on helping our clients develop emergency financial plans, coaching them through difficult conversations with landlords and creditors, navigating available resources, and preventing foreclosures or evictions during and after the crisis.

While Clarifi’s Chester County office is located at the United Way of Chester County’s Financial Stability Center in Exton, we proudly serve all in need across the county. While we serve everyone who needs our assistance, the majority of our clients face some type of systematic bias; nearly 70% of our clients are people-of-color, 89% are low-to-moderate income, and 61% are women. They have been excluded from our increasingly complex financial systems, an issue that is being clearly exacerbated by COVID-19. Giving them the right tools and skills at this critical time will help them weather this storm and be able to build for the future.

Clarifi’s overall operating budget is 4,842,321 dollars, with 749,000 dollars being dedicated to our Financial Empowerment program. Clarifi has already begun responding to the needs of Chester County families during the COVID-19 crisis by providing immediate and same-day counseling over the phone. Since moving to remote operations on March 16th, we’ve already helped over 500 of our neighbors in need. A grant received from this fund will be used to support these emergency counseling sessions. We are eager to put these funds to use to continue to support families in Chester County during this time.
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.