In a few brief paragraphs, please explain:

1. What geographic area is served?
   Since 2011, Kristen de Marco, EAGALA-trained Equine Specialist, has been providing equine-assisted psychotherapy to children, adolescents, adults, families, and groups in Chester County, Pennsylvania struggling with anxiety, depression, eating disorders, addiction, PTSD, sexual trauma, and grief & bereavement. As the demand for these trauma-informed services grew, de Marco sought to secure funding for those most in need and founded Gateway HorseWorks (GHW), a 501(c)(3), in August 2015. GHW's strategic vision is to make this unique treatment model accessible to the local community, with a specific focus on underserved and marginalized populations who have experienced trauma.

   Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) is a trauma-informed, experiential therapy that addresses mental health issues through the incorporation of horses in a client-directed, metaphor-based therapy. Using a process of reflective listening and observation - similar to play therapy - the treatment team, consisting of a licensed mental health professional and a certified equine specialist, creates a therapeutic environment for a client's own story, perceptions, attitudes, emotions, and feelings to emerge through metaphor. The treatment team helps clients translate their experiences from what is happening with the horses to what is transpiring in their own lives, relationships, families, or workplace. Unique to EAP is the unmounted nature; clients interact with the horses (now virtually), but they do not ride or practice horsemanship, making it accessible to a wide spectrum of participants.

2. What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?
   In just four years, GHW has developed innovative mental health services for people in our community. In addition to individual and family sessions, GHW has developed collaborative partnerships with like-minded organizations. Currently, there are seven community programs:
   Beyond the Barn, a group equine-assisted learning program for dependent youth and justice-involved youth [Partner: Chester County Children, Youth, and Family Services and Chester County Juvenile Probation]
   Breaking Free, group EAP sessions for people in residential treatment recovering from drug and alcohol addiction [Partner: Recovery Centers of America at Devon]
   Galloping Home, an EAP program for women veterans experiencing homelessness [Partner: the Philadelphia and Coatesville VA Medical Centers]
   It Takes a Village, a year-round group EAP program for adolescent girls recovering from trauma as a result of violence, neglect, addiction, poverty, and mental illness [Partner: The Village]
   Stable Connections, a grief and bereavement program for children, adolescents, adults, and families navigating the loss of a loved one [Partner: University of Pennsylvania and Penn Hospice]
   Stable Pathways, a group EAP program to address anxiety, depression, and hopelessness, and reduce recidivism among people in the prison system [Partner: Chester County Parole & Probation Department]
   Unbridled Hope, an EAP program for female human trafficking survivors [Partner: The Salvation Army's New Day to Stop Trafficking Program]

   During the onset of COVID-19 and our immediate cessation of in-person sessions at the farm on March 12th, GHW made the decision to pursue telemental health sessions. GHW purchased Zoom Healthcare, a tripod for a phone for live streaming, worked with our attorney to draft updated consent forms, and partnered with several colleagues across the country to
further develop this platform for equine-assisted psychotherapy. Just one week later, GHW was up and running and serving clients.

As essential workers navigate the stress and trauma due to COVID-19, Gateway HorseWorks stands ready to provide free telemental health services to as many people as possible in the region. Free sessions have been made available immediately to essential workers and families, before funding has been secured, to support our community. Outreach is ongoing to our existing community partners as well as hospitals, first responders, grocery stores, etc. to support their employees during this difficult time.

While we work to provide this important mental health care to the community, we still must maintain the care of our horses 24/7. This requires our own team of essential workers to maintain their wellbeing and care while the organization works to secure funding for all the necessary expenses.

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?**

Gateway HorseWorks is requesting $4,725 to cover the cost of 27 one-hour sessions to be offered to essential workers and their families in Chester County. These funds represent less than 2% of our operating budget and are anticipated to be utilized in the next sixty days. The sessions are already being made available to the community before funding is available to meet critical unmet mental health care needs.

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.