**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: 4.22.2020

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?

1. Geographic Area Served: We have two programs which serve people from across Chester County. Our Permanent Housing Services is located in Coatesville PA but serves families (men, women and children) from across the county. At this time 67% of the families we serve are from Coatesville, 19320. Our Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing programs are offered to men from across the county, but the program is located in Phoenixville, and serves primarily (though not exclusively) men from northern Chester County.

2. The impact of Covid 19 on the population served by our programs, again falls into fairly distinct categories.

Families in our Permanent Housing Services are all employed in essential services, mostly working in the healthcare field. While they are fortunate to have jobs, the situation is distressing because as single mothers, they are working far more hours than in the past, and have had to turn to others for childcare while schools are closed. A few of these mothers have other family members they can appeal to for help with childcare, but many do not. There simply is not money in their household budgets for the level of childcare that they are needing to come up with now as schools are closed and they are working longer work hours than in the past. Along with this, many of these families have juggled bills in the past, and are going to have to come up with additional costs for 24 hour/day of utility use. We have a small line item in our budget for emergency support, and we are working to increase this amount, recognizing that many families are going to need some degree of support in the next few months.

Those in our shelter/transitional programs have been hit by unemployment (25% or more), which in the case of our transitional housing residents has impacted their ability to pay their $400 monthly program fees (rent) which is having its own impact on our organization’s operating income for the year. Assuming that the crisis goes on with unemployment continuing at this level, we anticipate about $8,000 loss of program fees between now and the end of the fiscal year. We have always been willing to work to help transitional housing residents make arrangements when they run into trouble with job loss or illness, so naturally we are doing the same now. Nevertheless the program fees we receive are used to help fund the program itself, to keep the lights on and the heat/ac running.
3. How much funding is sought?

We are hoping to create a small emergency fund which we could draw from to help our Coatesville families to pay additional bills such as child care support, rental support, utility bills, while also helping cover the program fees of those who are currently unemployed in our transitional housing.

We request $5,000 for emergency support. $2,500 for PHS, and $2,500 for residents in our Phoenixville Transitional Housing Program. This would provide for 10 households in PHS, allowing for $250/family, and an additional $250/month to help with partial program fees for 7 transitional housing residents for two months.

Because all of the funds would be in support of emergent needs, we cannot entirely predict the timeline for use, but we anticipate that all funds would be used in full by June 30.

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.