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)
   
   Kennett Area Senior Center serves 16 municipalities in Southern Chester County. The municipalities are located in the catchment area of the United Way of Southern Chester County.

2. **What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**
   
   Kennett Area Senior center serves over 1900 low-to-moderate income people who are 50 and above. These clients are encountering escalating challenges to wellness and independence as they age; inevitably facing the loss of muscle tone, bone mass, immunity against disease, and diminishing visual and mental acuity. The result of this deterioration is often poor physical and mental health, poor nutrition, and loss of independence, self-esteem, and dignity. These losses mount, frequently resulting in a poor quality of life. The effect of these escalating challenges is a greater dependence on family and community to meet daily living needs, increased rates of institutionalization and early death.

   The Kennett Area Senior Center, like all senior centers across the state, has had to shut down in order to prevent or slow down the spread of the virus among the most vulnerable population. Seniors still need services and we have continued providing services for them remotely. Starting from an original list of 1,900 contacts, we culled the list to 650 seniors whom we believed to be vulnerable, and we are now communicating regularly with over 350 of our most vulnerable seniors to ensure they have food, medicine, and the means to continue to pay their utilities and other necessary expenses. We are collaborating with a local partner, Kennett Area Community Services, as well as the Chester County Department of Aging Services, to ensure that food and emergency assistance are available for those who need it. In addition to calls for basic needs, we continue to provide information and assistance, including guidance on Covid-19-related fraud; providing the seniors with examples of the most common scams.

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?**

   Kennett Area Senior Center seeks a Collateral Damage Grant of $12,000.

   A Collateral Damage grant of $12,000 would represent .02% of the annual budget of $574,926. The grant would be used to cover expenses involved in maintaining contact with the seniors, i.e., payroll. Also, funds will be utilized to cover utility costs to maintain our building and, just as importantly, to keep the server operating to maintain our virtual private network with staff, our phone system where the seniors have been leaving messages for callbacks for help and advice. Although the building is empty, it must be maintained by services including HVAC, pest control, etc. In late March, for example, a visit to the senior center to check there were no leaks, infestations or other problems, prompted emergency emptying of a freezer that stopped working and had contained meals for seniors that had spoiled. An IT Consultant provides support for the server and phone system. She also continues to provide email and computer support for the staff working remotely in order to continue to provide reports back to the Senior Center’s server and connect with each
other. Occupancy and administrative and costs that will be covered include commercial and liability insurance, as well as the Executive Director’s time spent handling basic bookkeeping tasks, overseeing remote staff work and checking daily on facilities.

The impact of these continuing activities is that KASC is ensuring that the seniors it serves are able to successfully shelter-in-place, meet their basic needs, as well as provide them with some mental health boost with the regular phone calls they receive. As the situation may get worse and prove more difficult over time, the Senior Center may need to partner with additional resources to help seniors with escalating problems. The longer the seniors are unable to get about, the higher the likelihood that services such as home delivery, in-store pick-up, and medical appointments will become acute. We will partner with other volunteer services to provide these services because our staff is unable to do this work. 90% of our staff are seniors themselves and must also restrict their movements. The 10% that are not seniors have children who are immunocompromised.

The last population that will be able to return to a normal life will be seniors. This may further delay the reopening of KASC. Although a current plan to reopen by the end of the fiscal year, i.e., June 30, 2020 (if not sooner) is in place, the stage of the Covid-19 epidemic will ultimately determine when the senior center can reopen to full capacity. Therefore, the expected timeframe for this grant is April to June 30, 2020. Sometime shortly before June 30, executive staff and the Board of Directors will determine if the center can reopen and if not, further help will be needed from the funding community and other sources (federal/state government) to survive this crisis.

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.