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)**
   
a. MDA Philly-DE serves all of Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware, inclusive of Chester County.

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

   The Muscular Dystrophy Association serves the over 250,000 individuals living with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related neuromuscular diseases in the United States. Neuromuscular diseases such as muscular dystrophy, spinal muscular atrophy and ALS are progressive diseases that weaken the muscles, often including cardiac and respiratory muscles. Many individuals living with NMD already suffer from respiratory conditions, making them significantly more susceptible to COVID-19 and its severest outcomes. There is no cure for any of the over 40 neuromuscular diseases under MDA’s umbrella. Individuals living with neuromuscular disease come from diverse racial, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

   The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of all Americans, but it is being felt perhaps more acutely by the individuals living with a neuromuscular disease not only because of their increased mortality risk with COVID-19, but also because of mobility limitations that can lend to even greater isolation. Many of the individuals we serve are unable to work and are homebound. Many rely on caregivers to provide self-care such as bathing, dressing and eating. With social distancing, loneliness and isolation can take a large toll leading to emotional challenges.

   Moreover, some individuals living with a neuromuscular disease receive regular outpatient infusions and other treatments to manage symptoms and slow disease progression. This presents logistical challenges with social distancing and a shift to telemedicine. Many healthcare systems are already overwhelmed and are limiting outpatient appointments, causing stress for patients who were expecting to meet in person with their neuromuscular specialist. As MDA’s National Ambassador, Justin Moy, said, “Neuromuscular disease does not stop in a crisis”.

**COVID Emergency Response for Neuromuscular Community**

MDA is on the frontline working with care centers sharing new treatment guidelines, best practices for telemedicine and providing additional education and support to families. We have conducted digital sessions with all our key stakeholders.

- We created the COVID-19 online resource center, which is updated regularly with new information, including COVID care guidelines for individuals with NMD.
• We enacted virtual care center support and proactive outreach to patients and families and increased capacity in the MDA National Resource Center
• We pivoted our Care Center Directors meeting to a virtual format, with more than 150 directors attending
• We launched MDA Let’s Play, a family game night with more than 1400 families participating via Twitch and YouTube to help our families stay connected
• We created MDA Frontline, an interactive Facebook Live program for patients to ask their questions about COVID-19. Over 500 patients were online for the first show featuring MDA Chief Clinical Advisor, Dr. Barry Byrne.
• We are creating a virtual camp experience that will bring joy, innovative programming and a way to stay connected to our campers/families

COVID Advocacy
MDA’s advocacy team and network of constituents nationwide are making sure our collective voice is heard by advocating before Congress, Governors, and Federal Agencies (including FDA and CMS):
• Ensuring that policymakers understand the unique needs of people living with NMDs
• Advocating for policies that encourage social distancing in order to slow spread to vulnerable NMD population
• Enable no-cost COVID testing for everyone
• Ensure that state Medicaid programs have the funding they need to respond to the crisis
• Ensure that state and hospital triage policies do not discriminate against NMD

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 are seeking $10,000 in support. MDA Philly/DE’s annual operating budget is over $1.2 Million. MDA’s mission is to transform the lives of individuals living with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related neuromuscular diseases. Our mission remains critical during this pandemic, especially as the neuromuscular community is at a higher risk of mortality from COVID-19 given the respiratory and cardiac issues that accompany neuromuscular disease. General operating support will help MDA sustain our services and programs to this vulnerable population. Our families rely on the care they receive from MDA’s National Care Center Network. Children and adults make nearly 60,000 visits to MDA Care Centers and Care Affiliates each year. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, these visits have had to shift to telemedicine platforms and MDA is providing our clinicians and institutions with guidance and best practices for telehealth. Our National Resource Center continues to provide one-on-one support to individuals affected by neuromuscular disease and perhaps now, more than ever, our Resource Specialists are needed to provide accurate information to the neuromuscular community regarding COVID-19, as well as dependable referrals to community resources. We also need operational support to pivot our MDA Summer Camp program to a virtual platform that will reach more children and provide learning activities curated to the neuromuscular community, especially while so many are home from school and socially isolated.
General operating support will help MDA maintain the quality of services we provide as well as help us to maintain and even extend our reach during this critical time. Our families rely on us for one-to-one support in navigating information, identifying resources, connecting them to healthcare professionals and providing social and educational programming. This pandemic has already had a significant impact...
on our fundraising campaigns and events. We rely on in-person fundraising with retailers, firefighters, galas and golf events. MDA is determined to fight this pandemic for our families. They need us now more than ever and, with your support, we will see them through.

Please email grants@chesocf.org
__X__ This Brief COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request
__X__ Copy of annual operating budget or most recent audit
__X__ 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@chesocf.org.
Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.