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.
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.) Operation Warm, headquartered in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, serves all of Chester County. We target our coat-giving services to low-income children and youth, whom we identify primarily by using a family’s income eligibility for the federal free and reduced lunch program. Operation Warm collaborates with community partners throughout the County and greater Philadelphia area, including Head Start and Early Head Start; public and charter schools; child-serving agencies; public libraries; Firefighters Associations and more to meet this basic need for the economically disadvantaged in the area. One of our key programs in Chester County is our “A Warm Welcome to the Kennett Square Public Library” program. Over the past two years, we have served approximately 450 area children and their families, many of whom are English Language Learners. The Kennett Square Public Library has been a key partner in identifying, inviting, and serving children and families most in need. During the library program, children and families learn about the offerings available at the library, enroll for a library card, and receive a brand new Operation Warm coat and at least one book to take home. Families are also encouraged to connect with available community benefit programs. The financial assistance is truly appreciated by Kennett area parents. One participating parent commented on an outcome survey that, “As a mother struggling to decide how to stretch my money in order to buy all the things my family needs, I am grateful for this help. Only two of my children had winter coats, so this is a great help for us.” Further, the connection to the library is equally noted as another parent remarked, “It was wonderful spending time in the library with my children doing the activities. Thank you for arranging this fun day, and thank you for giving them the beautiful, warm coat.”

2.) In total, up to 150 low-income children and their families will be served during this program in the fall of 2020. Operation Warm’s 2020-21 fiscal year just began on April 1, 2020 marking the beginning of our fundraising efforts for this fall and winter. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our preparation for the upcoming programming season as we enter a period of unknowns in regard to the financial well-being of our partners, both on the program side and in terms of financial support. We are already communicating with our library partners to establish contingencies if locations are unable to physically accommodate visitors this fall and winter, such as drive-by coat distributions and fewer in-person interactions. Funding for the Kennett Square program was previously corporate and we do not anticipate the same levels of support this coming season. In immediate response to these unknowns, we have reduced our staff by approximately 30% and have frozen all other spending. We are working now to secure funding and plan for supports for children and families who we anticipate will need our help more this coming fall and winter than ever before.

3.) Operation Warm requests $2,500 which is equivalent to one-half of the program cost of serving 150 children and their families in the Kennett area. The funding represents a small portion of our overall annual budget for library and other programming throughout the United States. The funds will be used for brand new Operation Warm winter coats; books; and promotion of the library.
Please email grants@chescocf.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@chescocf.org.
Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.