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COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request

Date:

Contact Information

Organization Name: RSVP
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Board Chair Name: Robert Leib

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In a few brief paragraphs, please explain:

What geographic area is served? *(If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served)*

RSVP serves Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties and parts of Philadelphia.

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

RSVP's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable populations by focusing on education and wellness and supporting nonprofits through skill-based volunteer programs. These programs serve 11,000 disadvantaged and at-risk individuals annually and build the capacity and service delivery of 150 nonprofit agencies.

With the onset of COVID-19, RSVP has re-purposed its traditional programming to address the critical needs of seniors, the disadvantaged and those whose health is compromised through an emergency volunteer mobilization effort to help area food banks, meal delivery programs and the Medical Reserve Corps in Chester, Montgomery and Delaware Counties.

In mid-March Montgomery County Health and Human Services asked RSVP to coordinate all volunteer mobilization for the county. Concurrently we broadened our efforts to also include Delaware & Chester Counties which we currently serve. Pre-COVID we have 60 Chester County volunteers reading weekly to 180 to Head Start students, providing tutoring to 79 elementary school students having reading difficulty, providing STEM career presentations to disadvantaged secondary school students through Chester County Futures and The Garage. With schools closed we have repurposed our current volunteers to address COVID 19 needs including reading virtually with 1st-3rd grade students learning from home.

We have assembled a team to handle volunteer recruitment, screening, enrollments and referrals with a widely distributed call for volunteers through social and print media; NBC10's website we with a direct link to RSVP; and a COVID 19 button on RSVP's website (www.rsvpmc.org). Just over the last two weeks we have enrolled an additional 10 Chester

County volunteers for a total of 70 volunteers serving in a variety of capacities throughout the county.

We have also developed an infrastructure for new nonprofit requests using the same media stream and announcing that RSVP is accepting volunteer requests. We are also directly contacting each of our current partner agencies throughout the region. To date eight food banks, meal delivery services, The Clinic and the Medical Reserve Corps have made requests for volunteers.

In addition we are using volunteers to make friendly well-check phone calls to seniors, to help connect them with meal delivery agencies and other ways to get food/medicine delivered to their home. We have partnered with a "mutual aid site", www.COVAID.com, that is recruiting neighborhood volunteers willing to deliver groceries and medication to vulnerable community members. COVAID currently does not screen or verify volunteer identity. Since we are not comfortable referring vulnerable people to volunteers without proper clearances we have agreed to enroll and screen COVAID volunteers (in our service area) who are interested in performing these services. Once screened we will refer clients to them for assistance. RSVP will notify COVAID which of their volunteers have clearances and they will be adding a field to their site that indicates that volunteer has been screened. This will enable community members to safely gain access to the help they so desperately need.

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 a \$1,000 grant to help support our COVID19 response in Chester County. RSVP's annual budget is \$869,850. Funding will be used toward volunteer recruitment, screening, enrollment and referral/repurposing of volunteers to assist vulnerable community members in need during this crisis. Funding will be used during April through September.

Please email grants@chescof.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@chescof.org.
Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.