In a few brief paragraphs, please explain:

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

West Chester University’s Resource Pantry serves food and basic needs to food-insecure students at West Chester University in West Chester, PA. The Resource Pantry is available to any student enrolled at the University. This includes students living off-campus throughout Chester County.

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

Research has shown that up to 32% of WCU students lack reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable and nutritious food and personal care supplies. The Resource Pantry serves an average of 200 students per week and 1,000 annually. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many WCU students have left the area. However, the University recognizes that food and basic need-insecure students still remain on campus and throughout the county. Currently, there are approximately 200 students living on or near campus. The Resource Pantry continues to provide food supplies from its original back stock to vulnerable students who can access campus to receive them. As the pandemic stretches on, these supplies will likely be depleted. Given the precautions around preventing contamination, the Pantry is not able to accept its usual supply of donated food items and, therefore, is reliant solely on financial contributions at this time.

Because all on-campus events have been cancelled for the spring semester, the Resource Pantry’s annual fundraising dinner, which typically raises around $5,000, will not happen. The Resource Pantry’s budget relies on financial contributions from donors, and this cancellation will have a significant impact on the Resource Pantry’s resources.

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?

The WCU Resource Pantry is requesting $2,500 in short-term funding to re-stock the Resource Pantry’s food and personal care item supplies. Any funds over that amount will help make up for losses from the dinner and will be used throughout the next year to support operating expenses for the Resource Pantry.