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.
COVID-19 Rapid Response
Mini-Grant Letter of Request

The EF EPA serves 18 counties in eastern PA, including Chester. We offer a range of free programs, services and resources to empower and improve the lives of local individuals and families affected by epilepsy.

Living with active epilepsy can make it difficult to find or maintain employment, obtain a driver’s license or have social relationships. Uncontrolled seizures also pose significant health risks often leading to a highly dependent relationship with parents and/or caregivers. This lack of independence can lead to low self-esteem and confidence. Likewise, the full-time responsibility and strain of caring for a loved one can be stressful; not knowing when they may seize can lead to fear and anxiety.

Adding the uncertainty, isolation and fear surrounding COVID-19 only amplifies these daily obstacles. Now, more than ever, those affected by epilepsy need a sense of community and a network of trust and support. Education and support are vital for those impacted by epilepsy. Access to the latest information, resources and a support network makes management of this condition easier to navigate.

The EF EPA will continue to leverage social media and video conferencing software to maintain our educational conferences, monthly support groups, and seizure recognition and first aid training. We have contingent plans to host our two May conferences, the Lehigh Valley and Lancaster Epilepsy Education Exchanges, as webinars. Staff will also host trainings for teachers, school nurses and the general public to sustain our goal to make every school district in eastern PA Seizure Smart.

In addition, we are substituting in-person support group meetings with video conferencing to ensure our already vulnerable community does not feel alone during this uncertain time. Wellness techniques have been incorporated into the meetings to combat excess fear and anxiety caused by the current climate. We have also created region-specific Facebook groups for constituents to stay connected with fellow support group members. The online meetings and pages act as an outlet to receive and give support, ask questions, express concerns and share resources.

We request $5,000 from the Chester County Community Foundation to supplement our $1.25 million operating budget. Funding would lessen the financial burden of COVID-19 and allow us to explore virtual programing to meet the pressing social support and mental health needs of our community. Within 90 days, the EF EPA will deploy the funds to maintain and modify our spring and summer programs. Funding will supplement revenue losses and delays from our four regional Walk to END EPILEPSY events, as well as the anticipated decline in corporate funding due to the transition to virtual events.

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? Please email grants@chesocf.org

In a few brief paragraphs, please explain:

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.