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.
Date: May 29, 2020

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)**
   The services outlined in this grant are open to all but will be hosted in and focused on the greater West Chester area.

2. **What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**
   Parents of school age children have been hit particularly hard from the pandemic. Their mental health is tested everyday by worrying about job security, food insecurity and the education of their children. And for many, how to manage the workload of fulltime employment, parenting, and education without the supports of childcare, school facilities and camps is overwhelming. As an organization committed to strengthening families and providing youth with every opportunity to succeed, we are concerned that families’ capacity to protect their children from risks such as mental health issues, underage substance use and violence will be diminished due to the increased stressors in their own life.

   In response, West Chester Communities that Care has established Parenting Through a Pandemic; a combination of webinars and in person meetings to bring area mental health and wellness professionals to share their expertise with parents. Our first two webinars in April and May had turn outs of 150 and 100 people respectively. In addition, we are launching a Positive Parenting Network which meets at least monthly (more often as interest warrants) to help parents cope and reinforce the importance for them to set strong examples of resiliency so they can minimize the impact of this pandemic not just on this generation, but the next. The response so far has been very positive with parents indicating great interest in continuance of these programs.

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?**
   Our annual operating budget is $30,000 which covers one part time Social Worker position. While our staff and board look to find ongoing funding for this important endeavor, we are seeking an additional $3500 which will help to fund additional staff hours to arrange for area mental health and wellness speakers and organize regular meet ups where parents can connect with one another and to pay professional stipends as needed. These funds will keep this program in tact through the end of 2020.

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.