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.
Contact Information

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Board Chair Name: David Wickard
Primary Contact Name: Pam Sapko
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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)*
   
   Chester County

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

   Playschool through Grade 5 (ages 3 - 11); 150 students. On March 16\(^{th}\), WCFS closed its campus and pivoted to online Connected Classroom for all its classes, including special-area subjects, such as Spanish, Music, Art, Science, Library, Technology and Physical Education, meeting through Zoom or Google products. The school's Chrome books were distributed to families who did not have access to technology at home. Popular mileage and running clubs continued, as well as our instruction and practice of mindfulness. Increased support was provided to parents and students by our school psychologist. Students continued with instrumental and strings lessons and individual and collaborative visual arts projects. Teaching was done in a variety of formats; to the whole class, with small groups and one-on-one formats.

   As we prepare for the fall, we are planning for a huge variety of adjustments – physical changes, procedural and safety changes, and teaching changes – as well as the possibility of being on campus, in Connected Classroom, and with a combination of in person and online. We are planning to start two weeks earlier than normal on campus. We are evaluating every available teaching space to match the class size to the most appropriate room. We expect to repurpose a large section of the gym into a classroom for our largest class. The next largest class will relocate to the cafeteria. Classes will operate as pods or cohorts, not interacting physically with other classes. Plexiglass barriers on desks will separate children from one another.

   Ongoing cleaning and safety protocols are being developed, including taking temperatures upon arrival, wiping down surfaces on a regular basis and treating spaces, including bathrooms, with electrostatic cleaning equipment, at least once a day and in some cases, multiple times a day.

   Our teaching model will migrate, in part, to Project Based Learning, to emphasize a multi-disciplinary approach that can accommodate special area subjects in a robust fashion. We wish to provide live streaming capability in eight classrooms for students who wish or need to attend school remotely. This will also provide the opportunity for students not currently enrolled at WCFS to participate in classes or teaching units as needed. This spring, multiple families and their children, successfully participated in our online Connected Classroom, even though they were not enrolled at the school.
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?**

WCFS seeks a mini grant of $5,000 to purchase mats and dividers to convert the gym into a classroom ($3,000) and technology, such as a Meeting Owl Pro and phone tripod mounts in each classroom ($2,000) to create live streaming capability. We will need the funding before the end of August, when school will reopen.

We anticipate that the additional costs required to purchase personal protective equipment, cleaning equipment, and cleaning and sanitizing products that meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will cost $20,000.

Our budget for FY20 is 2 million. Although WCFS is in stable financial condition, we anticipate that FY21 will be a very difficult year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please email grants@chesocf.org

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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@chesocf.org. Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.