



28 W. Market Street, Lincoln Biography Building
West Chester, PA 19382
610.696.8211 www.chescocf.org

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.





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COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request

Date: 7/11/2020

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Oxford Arts Alliance
Address: 38 S 3rd Street, Oxford, PA 19363
Phone: 610-467-0301
Website: www.oxfordart.org
FEIN: 26-4004347

ED/CEO Name: Anthony Derrico
ED/CEO E-mail: director@oxfordart.org
Board Chair Name: Ed Rahme
Primary Contact Name: Anthony Derrico
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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)*

The Oxford Arts Alliance (OxAA) serves over 5000 individuals annually in Southern Chester County. While the gallery is physically located in Oxford Borough, our academies of art and music continue to serve individuals in the six municipalities that comprise the most southern part of the county and Chester County as a whole.

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

On average, the OxAA serves over 5000 individuals through the galleries and academies. The academies of art and music, Main Gallery, and Emerging Artist Gallery are comprised of students and visitors from varying economic levels, ages (3-80), and ethnic backgrounds. According to the US Census Bureau (V2018), Oxford differs drastically from the rest of Chester County in that Oxford is a federally-defined low-income census tract and experiences a 16.1% poverty rate which is more than double Chester County's poverty rate of 6.7%. Our 2017 Feasibility study recommended that OxAA continue to expand opportunities to a wider audience in Southern Chester County to meet the needs of underserved populations and as the area continues to diversify.

The impact of COVID-19 on the OxAA has been increasingly adverse, but we have worked to meet the needs of our students and to adapt to provide services via alternative platforms. As the building has been closed since March, programming for all 200 students in the academies of art and music has moved to an online platform as a temporary modification to ensure the safety of our students and faculty. All in-person art exhibitions from March 2020-August 2020 have been canceled and staff has worked to digitize both galleries so patrons can continue enjoying the exhibitions, albeit in a new format. While these adaptations have enabled a sense of continuity in our core programs, important revenue from canceled summer camp registrations, art sales, The Connective Art and Music Festival, and the Celebration of Color gala have been a prodigious loss for the OxAA and will impact our ability to maintain serves.

Through the EMERGE Scholarship Fund, The Oxford Arts Alliance continues to establish a foundation for students to focus on what matters most, their creative and artistic drive. This fund continues to allow students to further their critical art and music education regardless of their ability to pay. Need-based scholarship funds such as the EMERGE scholarship fund are necessary to the mission of the OxAA and give Southern Chester Counties most financially vulnerable residents support for their artistic and musical educations. The funding for these scholarships comes directly from the events that have been canceled due to COVID-19.

In response to the adverse impact on the annual budget, the OxAA amended the operating budget and applied for and received a modest PPP loan. Additionally, a series of social media campaigns and appeals to private donors were executed amid the shutdown. However, these actions have not completely addressed the financial impacts. While the OxAA understands the need to continue adapting programs for patrons in this new climate, we still lack the critical revenue needed to keep staff and programming operational for an extended period during this pandemic.

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?

The OxAA seeks \$5,000 in assistance as we continue to adapt to the pandemic and its challenges.

While the OxAA was able to regain a portion of its lost revenue for operating expenses and scholarships, it has not made up the entirety of the anticipated 30% decrease in critical revenue necessary to its mission.

The funds would be promptly employed by the OxAA. The aforementioned \$5000 that the OxAA is seeking would immediately allow all recipients of the EMERGE Scholarship to continue their studies in a time that has only exacerbated their financial situation. Secondly, the funding sought would add a strong financial footing from which the organization can again look forward to operating safely and healthily for Southern Chester County.

Please email grants@chescocf.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@chescocf.org.

Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.