In a brief paragraph, please explain:

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?

1. Uptown!Entertainment Alliance (U!EA) serves mainly the Greater West Chester area, including Delaware County and Northern New Castle County, DE and SE Pennsylvania.
2. U!EA provides arts, cultural and educational opportunities for its patrons and attendees. In addition to performances in the Uptown!Knauer Performing Arts Center, our West Chester Studio for the Performing arts has an in-school theatre program which includes an offering specifically dealing with bullying. The COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting business shutdown orders from the state government, has required U!EA to cease all operations and programming until such time as the orders are rescinded. Even after that occurs, it is likely that “social distancing” will remain in place for the foreseeable future, thus reducing the numbers of attendees at performances, and for the spring and summer Studio courses.
3. Funding request is $5,000, which is roughly 0.3% of 2020 budget. The funding will be used for the salary of the one remaining employee for the next three months, hoping that performances will be occurring by July.

Addendum

Since the initial application additional COVID-19 operating restrictions were put in place. U!EA will not be opening in July as it develops appropriate physical distancing protocols. We are now hopeful of opening in mid-September. But, even though we could operate at 50% capacity (150 patrons), our initial physical distancing layouts will limit us to between 80-100 patrons depending on the show. At this point, we have no idea as to when we may be able to operate full capacity which is necessary to maintain financial viability. Our West Chester Studio has been offering some programs – mostly virtual but a few on site – although several programs were canceled due to the pandemic. All this together is estimated to turn our initial 2020 budgeted small surplus ($20 thousand) into a projected deficit of nearly ¼ million dollars.

Uptownwestchester.org
Please email grants@chesco cf.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@chesco cf.org. Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.