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.
In a few brief paragraphs, please explain:

1. What geographic area is served?
   Chester County, Delaware County, Montgomery County, Philadelphia County

2. What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?
   Founded in 2007, Horse Power for Life provides free professional therapeutic horsemanship instruction for children, women and men of all ages, who have been affected by cancer. This includes cancer patients, survivors and those who have lost a family member to this terrible disease. In addition, we invite and encourage family members to participate in the program.

   The core of the program includes 90 minute sessions and guides students through all aspects of horse care from basic grooming to leading horses to riding. Our program is customized for each individual based on their age, skills, experience, comfort level, health and physical ability. Each family can come for a total of 16 free sessions. Students are encouraged to become Ambassadors to the program at the completion of the course, offering their newly acquired knowledge to new families entering the program. Families can also continue after 16 weeks for an hourly lesson fee.

   In addition to our normal yearly therapeutic sessions, Horse Power for Life offers four (one week) Summer Pony Camps to local children affected by cancer. The program is for beginner and intermediate riders, children ages 5-16. The pony camp is Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm and includes horse related activities: grooming, care and riding, swimming with a lifeguard and creating pottery.

   Traditionally, the major source of funding for Horse Power for Life has been our annual fundraising gala. More than 80% of our annual operating expenses are raised at this event each year. It also is a great opportunity for us to thank our supporters and share the mission and vision of Horse Power for Life with the 225+ attendees. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we had to cancel the event for 2020, resulting in a huge deficit of operating funds.

   After the mandatory shut down period starting in March, 2020, we have reopened on June 10 in order to provide free sessions to families affected by cancer, which has included the Summer Camp program for children. We are taking all of the appropriate precautions to ensure the experience is safe for our staff and the program participants. Unfortunately, due to our decrease in funding, we may need to cut some programs in the near future, even though they have proven to be beneficial to those we serve.

   Going forward, if we are able to meet our immediate financial needs, we will need funding to continue our programs on an ongoing basis.
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?

Horse Power for Life is respectfully requesting $5000 under the CCCF priority of “Collateral Damage due to nonprofits facing extreme difficulty because of lost revenue due to closures and cancellations, as well as other challenges.” This represents 6% of our 2020 annual budget of $80,500. Depending upon timing of funding if approved, this grant would be used to sponsor 10 children affected by cancer to go through camp in August or it would pay for our horse expenses (board, feed, bedding and vaccinations) for the next 6 months from September through February.

Please email grants@chescofc.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@chescofc.org.
Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.