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.
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)*
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?**

With locations in the boroughs of Kennett Square and West Grove, Pennsylvania, The Garage Community & Youth Center primarily serves student youths in grades 6-12 in the Kennett Square and Avon Grove school district areas.

All students in grades 6-12 are welcomed to participate in activities sponsored and hosted by The Garage. Of those students who do participate (~500), the majority are of Latinx race and ethnicity. Despite the tutoring and mentoring opportunities offered directly to students, following the CDC guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic has somewhat shifted how The Garage can provide services to students. With school districts opening online, however, many students need direct supervision and tutoring during school hours and also need transportation. As a result, The Garage in both the Kennett Square and West Grove locations has moved forward with hosting learning pods or community classrooms in order to help meet the needs of students. Through the learning pod opportunity, students receive their district, online instructional curriculum and The Garage assists by ensuring students are on time and up to date with their classes and assignments. Staff monitor students and also assist with clarifying questions and any homework, assignments, or projects. In addition, students have the opportunity to eat their lunch during their learning pod time and furthermore, working parents are aware where their children are during school hours and know they have the instructional assistance available for academic success.

The Garage is the first in each community to establish a learning pod and our goal is to be a model so that other neighbor community resources can also consider accommodating students from their district. With this said and in order to accommodate as many students in need of this resource, The Garage is in need of funds to cover costs in transportation, supplies, staffing, and incidentals. The Garage Community & Youth Center respectfully requests funds in the amount of $5,000.00 to help cover the necessary costs and help us reach our goals with learning pods. Due to the nature of the work within the covid-19 health and safety guidelines, the cost of learning pods/community classrooms is above and beyond The Garage’s typical annual budget. Financial support will go directly to the additional costs of programming in this adapted setting.

It is significant to note that this project is in partnership with The Garage Community & Youth Center, Avon Grove School District, Kennett Consolidated School District, and many other community organizations within the Southern Chester County Opportunities Network. A great number of partners have been connected with this network since March 2020, and will continue to work collaboratively for the sharing of resources and collaborative work to best serve the most vulnerable members of our community.
Please email grants@chescocf.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@chescocf.org.

Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.