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COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request

Date: 09/22/2020

Contact Information

Organization Name: Oxford Area Senior Center
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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 Area Senior Center (OASC) serves individuals residing in 17 municipalities throughout the Avon Grove, Oxford Area, and Octorara School Districts in southern Chester County.

2. **What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**
The OASC serves individuals ages 60 and older, the population most vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus. They are mainly women (83%) and a large percentage of our seniors live alone. They are of modest means (18% have incomes at or below poverty level) and the remainder survive on a very limited income.

As mandated, OASC has been closed since March 16, 2020. There are seniors in our community that depend on the daily congregate meal that is normally provided at the center. Since the closure, we have identified seniors that are nutritionally at-risk and are taking steps to ensure they have the food that they need. Our Executive Director is on-site daily to take calls from our members and is scheduling/receiving deliveries of food provided by the Chester County Food Bank and the Chester County Department of Aging Services. Staff is coordinating the distribution of food and is providing delivery of food to any senior that is unable to leave their homes to pick up their food. Our staff is also offering assistance to any senior who is unable to pick up medications or other essential supplies.

Realizing that social isolation can have a negative health impact, our staff is making phone calls to check on our participant's emotional well-being. We continue to be accessible via telephone/email to provide guidance regarding available community resources, and technology support (computer questions, email, smart phones, etc.) so that seniors can stay connected to their families and the outside world during this uncertain time.

**** UPDATE ****

March – August 2020 Service Statistics:

- Meals distributed	1,250
- Senior food boxes distributed	120
- Individuals served through food programs	144
- Individuals served through Information and Assistance (I&A) Program	127
- Individuals assisted with computer/technology questions	3
- At-risk individuals consistently contacted through COVID Outreach Program	60

In July, we began offering outdoor fitness classes (Silver Sneakers, Gentle Stretching, Fall Prevention (Balance), and Light Weightlifting) at Nottingham Park. The classes have been well attended and our plans are to offer this program to our seniors as long as the weather allows.

October 15th marks the start of Open Enrollment for Medicare Part D -Prescription Coverage. The senior center will be taking appointments for in-person sessions with our Information and Assistance (I&A) Specialist, who will answer questions and provide individualized guidance through this complicated process. Appointments will be offered each weekday October 15th – December 7th, 2020 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Face coverings will be required and (in addition to the I&A Specialist), only 2 individuals will be allowed for each appointment. Each appointment will last 45 minutes and will allow 15 minutes for sanitizing the work areas in between appointments.

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?

We respectfully request \$3 000, which is approximately 1% of our operating budget. Funds will be used to support salaries and other expenses related to the distribution and delivery of food (and other supplies), continued Information and Assistance resource support and continued Technology support for our participants. We anticipate utilizing these funds within a 1-month timeframe. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

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