 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.
Date: 9/1/2020

In a few brief paragraphs, please explain:

1. **What geographic area is served?** *Southern Chester County*

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

   Tick Tock Early Learning Center prepares children from working families for school and life in a loving environment at affordable rates. Our Program offers high quality early childhood education and care to families residing primarily in Southern Chester County. Client tuition is determined on a sliding scale based on income and family size. The population we serve is low income, working families.

   During Tick Tock’s 3-month, government-mandated closure, we remained in contact with all of our families and offered help in the way of food, supplies, and referrals to other community agencies. Tick Tock reopened our doors in mid-June with clients returning to our care faster than we had anticipated, which highlighted the need for child care even in the middle of a pandemic. We implemented new health and safety procedures that meet and exceed the CDC guidelines for child care centers. We’ve had to purchase necessary PPE equipment, sanitizing supplies, hire additional employees, and completely modify our daily operations in order to care for and educate our young children in the safest setting possible.

   Just a few weeks ago, it became apparent that the Kennett School District may not open their physical doors for the start of the 2020 school year. We quickly went into action and surveyed our parents and their needs for the upcoming school year. The majority of our working parents simply had no suitable option for their children. Some parents would have to quit their jobs, risking their housing and food security. Others had the option of leaving their children with a Spanish-only speaking grandparent or a young teenager in the household who would be unable to assist with virtual learning. The last option would be to enroll their children in a pop-up learning pod which would likely cost more than their weekly income and may not offer a full day’s worth of care. It was immensely apparent that we needed to figure out a way to serve our school-age children.

   With just 3 weeks’ notice from the school district, we created and implemented a new full-day program for our school-age children in the Kennett Consolidated School District in order to give them a safe space to learn and be cared for all the while supporting their virtual learning. We are learning on the job as we navigate this new world of virtual school, juggle each child’s individual school schedule, and support their online learning.

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?**

   Tick Tock is seeking the maximum grant award amount of $5,000 (less than 1% of our annual budget) from CCCF to help us fund an additional teacher(s) for our school-age program. Currently, we are staffed with a 1-to-10 teacher-to-child ratio. This ratio works in a before-and-after school child care setting but it is not conducive for a virtual learning program in which each child has their own virtual schedule. We have currently accepted 30 school-age children into our full-day program, 10 of which are Kindergartners whose needs will be much greater than our older children. In order to offer our students the best possible learning environment, we need to hire more teachers than the PA State guidelines require so that we can offer the one-on-one assistance our youngest
students will surely need. At the same time, we know that our families cannot afford higher fees. They're already paying for a full-day program – something that wasn't in their budgets or minds just a few weeks ago.

The funds we are seeking will help cover a portion of the cost to hire an additional teacher (or more) to assist with remote learning from September 8, 2020 through November 13, 2020, at which point the Kennett Consolidated School District will reassess and determine whether in person learning can begin.

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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.