

## The Chester County Nonprofit Innovation & Resiliency Fund

Administered by the Chester County Community Foundation

In cooperation with regional funders, donors, united funds and County government departments

Recognizing the importance of the nonprofit sector to the high quality of life throughout Chester County, the Chester County Commissioners have allocated \$3.5M to help nonprofits recover with innovation and resiliency. This funding is from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Per the CARES Act, grants must cover unforeseen financial needs and risks created by the COVID-19 public health emergency. **This includes grants to implement and publicize the safe resumption of programs and services.** The Community Foundation seeks proposals to support innovative, resilient COVID recovery needs, such as:

- Program and service redesign, in light of social distancing and public safety requirements
- Innovative technology to support virtual, mobile and/or pop-up programs and services
- Redesigned and reconceived marketing, fundraising and special events
- Strategic planning pivoting, refinement and revisions in light of COVID-19
- Partnership, merger, consolidation and/or acquisition activities due to COVID-19 impacts
- Infrastructure improvements due to COVID, including plexiglass dividers, technology upgrades, etc.
- Higher operating costs related to cleaning and social distancing requirements
- Other one-time or increased expenses incurred related to COVID-19.

This is a competitive, time-sensitive grants process. Grant decisions will be made weekly, on an ongoing basis. Electronic grant applications are only accepted by e-mail. No paper applications are accepted.

### Eligibility

- Nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization formed and active in 2017 or earlier
- Nonprofit must be headquartered and providing services in Chester County, as evidenced by legal address in Box C of IRS 990

### Priority Preference for Grant Funding

- Nonprofits that provide clear evidence of how they aim to/are reshaping their programs, services, administration, marketing and fundraising, to safely provide services and thrive in light of COVID impacts
- Nonprofits with substantial costs to comply with COVID public health requirements
- Nonprofits that serve a diverse constituency, and are governed and managed by diverse leadership

### Ineligible Entities

- Nonprofits NOT headquartered in Chester County, PA, as evidenced by the legal address in Box C of the IRS 990
- Nonprofits NOT delivering services in Chester County
- Nonprofits that did NOT experience revenue loss due to the coronavirus pandemic and/or nonprofits that have no additional costs associated with the coronavirus pandemic
- Nonprofits that were NOT operational as of December 30, 2017
- Government or government-owned or controlled entities
- Churches or religious organizations with respect to their primarily religious activities and/or their activities which limit participation to members of the church or religious organization
- For-profit businesses
- Private clubs/organizations that limit membership for reasons other than capacity
- Nonprofits primarily engaged in lobbying or political activities
- Nonprofits NOT compliant with all federal, state, & local laws, including taxation
- Nonprofits NOT compliant with current public health guidelines, including coronavirus pandemic phased reopening restrictions ###





**Contact Information**

Nonprofit Org Name: Chester County Food bank	ED/CEO Name: Lawrence Welsch
Address: 650 Pennsylvania Drive	ED/CEO E-mail: lwelsch@chestercountyfoodbank.org
City, State Zip: Exton, PA 19341	Board Chair Name: Robert McNeil
Phone: 610-873-6000	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Beverly Abbonizio
Website: <a href="http://www.chestercountyfoodbank.org">www.chestercountyfoodbank.org</a>	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: <a href="mailto:babbonizio@chestercountyfoodbank.org">babbonizio@chestercountyfoodbank.org</a>
EIN: 27-0887311	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$50,000
Year Founded: 2009	

*In filing this application, the nonprofit certifies that it complies with all federal, state & local laws, including taxation; complies with current public health guidelines; and complies with coronavirus pandemic phased reopening restrictions.*

Agreed by: Beverly Abbonizio, Director of Development	Date: October 15, 2020
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**Nonprofit Field/s of Interest**

<input type="checkbox"/> Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Health
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment & Animal Welfare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Services

Figures	Current	PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)
Annual Operating Budget	\$6,990,701	\$6,259,837
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	35	34
# Board Volunteers	13	10
# Committee Volunteers	15	12
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	2,138	3027
Annual Volunteer Hours	12,674	16,938

**Funding:** Please indicate if your nonprofit has received funding from any of these regional sources over the past few years. We will invite them to review this funding request.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ChesCo Comm Fdn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brandywine Health Fdtn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	United Way ChesCo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ChesCo Dept Comm Devel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ChesCo Fund/W&Girls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	United Way S ChesCo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ChesCo Dept Health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other significant funders:					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ChesCo Dept Human Svcs

**Narrative:** In a few concise paragraphs, please explain:

**1. Mission**

In our tenth year, Chester County Food Bank remains steadfast in its commitment to mobilize our community to ensure access to real, healthy food. Addressing episodic and long-term food insecurity has been the driving force behind our organization since its inception. We readily recognize and fully accept the linkage between nutrition and optimal health, particularly in children and adolescents. Through family and a myriad of social supports, we provide

meal assistance through fresh and shelf-stable foods to families with school-aged children, seniors and any community member who exhibits need.

**2. What geographic area is served? (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served)**

Chester County Food Bank serves all of geographic Chester County.

**3. What population is served? How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID?**

We serve all residents of Chester County, with emphasis on those who are experiencing episodic and/or long-term food insecurity. We have specific programming that focuses on seniors, families with school aged children, bi-lingual residents, expectant mothers, and those suffering from chronic diseases diagnoses.

In our food pantries, we have observed a 10%-30% increase in pantry usage in various parts of the county. In response, we have procured additional food and increased our output to match demand. When comparing our fourth quarter of fiscal year 2019 to our fourth quarter of fiscal year 2020 (April-June post COVID) we increased food distribution by one third (31%). We have been able to maintain our provision of shelf stable food, with fresh fruits and vegetables as 43% of our total distribution. We are adept at large scale, countywide distributions through our member agency network. The pandemic has created a host of issues in that a larger number of people have been impacted by housing instability, economic instability and food insecurity. As the county strategically, but slowly re-opens, we are unsure of if or when a resurgence of the Covid-19 crisis may occur. Securing funding will ensure that families countywide will have access to healthy and nutritious meals in spite of these uncertainties.

**4. What has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**

Because of the circumstances and consequences relating to COVID-19, we are continuously monitoring and implementing the most effective ways of ensuring access to healthy food to provide the right resources to the right people at the right times. We have supported our existing network of over 120 agencies and organizations, worked with new and non-traditional partners, and helped individual communities address needs as each school district approached summer feeding and now the reopening of schools differently changing the entire distribution landscape. Strengthening member agencies' capability to accept, safely store, and distribute higher than normal volumes of food in a safe manner for staff, volunteers, and clients continues to be the goal.

Using county data and distribution maps, we have identified areas of highest need and responded with greater focus and service. We worked with participating school districts and distributing organizations to ensure children, their families, and the community had enough food throughout the summer. We have increased our meal output to meet the growing demand and ensured agencies have the proper PPE to operate safely. We continuously communicated with our distribution partners to understand the unique needs of each community and provided essential capital assets to ensure capacity for increased demand knowing that we are only as strong as our weakest link and recognizing that the food bank needs to maintain sufficient resources across the county as food bank operations could also be disrupted in spite of every precaution. Adding capacity and flexibility are key for the food system to weather challenges and embrace opportunities as they have come about.

**5. What would this funding be used for? How does this demonstrate innovation and resiliency in dealing with COVID impacts? What would be the community impact of this anticipated funding? Why is it important to fund this now?**

Funding will be utilized to directly support Chester County Food Bank's ability to enhance the food network by consistently being able to deliver additional food resources, take advantage of opportunities, and change distribution methods and patterns as needed. This may be due to health concerns, changing weather, or any other disruption. This will be accomplished by ensuring that capacity (through infrastructure) is increased where possible across the county and maintained at high levels. Increasing refrigerated transportation and providing freezer and refrigerator units at agencies throughout the county magnifies *our* ability to provide and *their* ability to accept greater quantities of frozen and fresh foods which tend to have higher nutritional value. Improving efficiency is also important as

agencies are continually working to address the challenges of higher needs coupled with a shrinking volunteer pool as people are returning to work, assisting their children with virtual learning, and still fearful of exposure to the virus.

As we strategically review our distribution logistics, the need for a refrigerated/freezer vehicle has been deemed necessary, as a stand-alone unit. The van or small truck could assist with added storage and distribution of fresh and frozen foods. For member agencies who have space limitations prohibiting added freezer or refrigeration units, the vehicle could serve as a mobile distribution unit, present at sites during key distribution days. When not in use as a mobile unit, the vehicle would be an added asset aiding in smaller distributions to complement our current logistics strategy, moving any type of product countywide. This impact will directly fortify resiliency to our countywide distribution structure. It also allows community hubs to become more efficient and self-sufficient in its efforts to serve.

**6. How much funding is sought? How does this compare to your annual operating budget and this years' projected deficit? What is the expected timeframe for use of funds?**

We are requesting \$50,000 in funding. The timeframe for utilization of funds will be immediately upon receipt with anticipated grant fulfillment on or before December 15th, 2020.

Coupled with resources from other donors, \$25,000 will be used to complete the purchase of the refrigerated/freezer vehicle detailed above. This was not a part of the proposed budget for 2020-2021.

The additional \$25,000 will allow for agency support to address cold storage capacity needs along with equipment that will be required for safety and efficiency.

The annual budgeted allotment for capital assets to support the food system through partner agencies is \$17,000.

In addition to providing food resources and PPE, CCFB has utilized agency dollars to support the needs of 12 agencies as they adapted their distribution programs. We have been able to secure funding through grants and donations to fund the purchase of additional refrigeration and freezer units for over 20 partners across the county.

For context:

- The average cost of a commercial reach-in refrigerator is \$3263.35
- The average cost of a commercial freezer is \$4119.90

Please e-mail all materials as a word.doc and/or pdf to [grants@chescocf.org](mailto:grants@chescocf.org):

This <b>Innovation &amp; Resiliency Fund Grant Request</b> cover sheet & brief narrative
Current annual operating budget & most recent audit
501c3 determination letter
Current strategic plan. If none, explain why your nonprofit doesn't have a plan.
Support materials that strengthen the urgency of this funding request + indicate that your nonprofit is innovative and resilient (ie: COVID best practice research findings, consultant proposal/s, bids for COVID-related materials & equipment, etc.)

- Proposals will only be accepted by e-mail, on this grant form available at <https://chescocf.org/covidgrant/>
  - Receipt of grant proposals will be confirmed by e-mail.
- Grant proposals will be posted on the Community Foundation's website, in order to share with fund advisors, donors, grant panelists, and other funding sources.
  - Grant proposals will be reviewed weekly.
- We estimate grants awards will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000.
- For awarded grants, a written report on use and impact of this funding will be due within 6 months.

Please direct questions about **ChesCo Nonprofit Innovation & Resiliency Grants** to

Chester County Community Foundation  
28 W. Market Street, The Lincoln Building  
West Chester, PA 19382

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