



**Chester County Nonprofit
Innovation & Resiliency Fund
Grant Request Form**

Contact Information

Nonprofit Org Name: The Coatesville Youth Initiative	ED/CEO Name: Jarvis Berry
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City, State Zip: Coatesville, PA 19320	Board Chair Name: Shannan Thomas
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EIN: 46-3277499	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$25,000
Year Founded: 2009 (Incorporated 2014)	

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: Jennifer Horan, Director of Development Date: 10/16/2020

Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

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

Figures	Current	PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)
Annual Operating Budget	\$957,624	\$957,624
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	5	7
# Board Volunteers	9	10
# Committee Volunteers	9	10
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	20	200
Annual Volunteer Hours	150	1700

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

Narrative: In a few concise paragraphs, please explain:

- Mission**
- What geographic area is served?** (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served)
- What population is served? How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID?**
- What has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**
- 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?**
- 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?**

Proposal Narrative – Coatesville Youth Initiative

The mission of The Coatesville Youth Initiative is to contribute to a vibrant future for Coatesville by engaging youth in experiences that support their success in school and in life, and by uniting a wide range of partners to make the community better for everyone. The Coatesville Youth Initiative is headquartered in the City of Coatesville of Chester County, PA and serves the city of Coatesville and neighboring boroughs of South Coatesville and Modena. The target population for CYI programs is youth and young adults, ages 12-18 living in the greater Coatesville area, with a special emphasis on meeting the needs of underserved youth living in our more low-income communities. Although Chester County is one of the wealthiest counties in the state, the City of Coatesville and smaller surrounding communities within the Coatesville Area School District do not reflect the overall prosperity of the county, and are home to a significant concentration of poor, underserved and minority residents. According to 2017 census data, 31.5% of Coatesville residents have an income below the poverty level, which is 60.3 greater than the poverty level of 12.5% across the entire state of Pennsylvania.

Most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on the Coatesville community, creating additional gaps in resources and disproportionately effecting our most vulnerable citizens. The COVID-19 pandemic has also impacted CYI, resulting in disrupted programming and a major decrease in pro-social youth gatherings. In March of 2020 we made the difficult but necessary decisions to cancel our annual Youth Conference and the ServiceCorps Youth Summer Leadership Development Program. These two signature CYI programs traditionally engage up to 250 youth, not to mention the program partnership host sites and their constituents (which adds up to 1,000 individuals), all of which have been simultaneously impacted. We have also had to cancel two community beautification projects which would have involved over 200 volunteers, and were unable to conduct the Coatesville Back to School event, shifting instead to a safe delivery of bookbags and school supplies versus handing these out in person.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced CYI to pivot, shift priorities and incorporate creative, collaborative and innovative approaches to ensure our youth and families remained engaged and connected. CYI created a suite of online virtual program offerings during the summer which featured a mix of both hard and soft skills development delivered through interactive activities, providing the social connection youth were seeking, while also delivering personal and professional development activities youth could participate in virtually. As restrictions eased, CYI has continued to adapt, offering a hybrid of both in-person and virtual programs and events, and even growing new program collaborations and offerings. For instance, CYI recently partnered with USSC (United Safety & Survivability Corporation), for a week-long STEM career preparation course for youth ages 12-16. Lastly, CYI facilitates the CYI Community Coalition and recent meetings have brought specific entities together to discuss timely community concerns, and collaborate in sharing resources and developing solutions to support youth and families during the COVID-19 crisis. Targeted audiences have included the Coatesville Area School District, community leaders, parents and community agencies.

Project Proposal

Six months in, the Coatesville community is still reeling from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a recent CYI Community Coalition meeting, representatives within the Coatesville Area School District expressed that the most pressing concern shared by both school administrators and parents alike was the need to have additional, community-based support for youth during the transition to virtual learning, as well as resources for extracurricular activities after-school and into the summer.

Although the Coatesville Youth Initiative has always provided a space where youth could come to do their school work, our current program space limits the capacity of youth we can safely accommodate while still adhering to social distancing guidelines. We are seeking support from the Chester County Nonprofit Innovation and Resiliency Fund to help support the CYI Learning Center, a new addition to our service line-up and an expansion of our current youth support efforts. The CYI Learning Center would become a place outside of the home where youth in Coatesville can receive the stability and support they need to succeed through the transition to a virtual learning academic year, while also receiving much needed, pro-social interaction in a safe, inclusive environment.

For youth, the countless disruptions in their daily routines and extra-curricular activities have led to the loss of social connections, structure and a sense of normalcy. As routines have been disrupted, summer programs closed and schools

moving to virtual or hybrid formats, it has become more important than ever that our youth feel emotionally, academically and socially supported. Compounding the issue, many of our parents work full-time and cannot afford to lose a steady income or incur the added expense of paying for childcare during the school year. The CYI Learning Center will be centrally located in Coatesville and will provide space, technology, resources and academic support to youth during school hours (8am-3pm), as well as after-school (3pm-6pm), Monday through Friday from January 2021 to June 2021. The CYI Learning Center will have access for a minimum of 8 youth per session but additional youth may be supported, pending space availability and safety regulations. Overall our goal is to reach 30+ youth per week (120 per month). Attendance at the Center will be of no cost to participants or parents and caregivers. During the summer, the CYI Learning Center will continue to be a venue for youth to safely gather to participate in CYI sponsored summer programming activities, including ServiceCorps Youth Leadership Development Program and the Brandywine Watershed Discovery Day Camp. With the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, we anticipate maintaining the CYI Learning Center into the 2021 fall academic semester from September – December 2021.

The CYI Learning Center will provide the following supportive services for Coatesville youth participants:

Academic Support:

The CYI Learning Center will provide academic support to ensure youth are engaged and completing their virtual lessons and homework assignments. CYI will recruit volunteer tutors and hire a minimum of 1 academically certified adult to support youth participants during school hours and after-school.

- Academic and social support for elementary-aged youth (to provide a space for those youth who have working parents who are unable to be at home during the academic school day) will be available during school hours and in the evening from 3:00 – 6:00pm.
- For middle and high school students, academic support and tutoring to assist students in completing virtual learning classes will be available during school hours for Cyber School students and in the evenings from 3:00 – 6:00pm for virtual school students.

Emotional Support:

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly increased feelings of isolation and stress on youth in particular, and with schools transitioning to virtual formats, mental health resources aren't as readily available to youth who are experiencing issues or in need of coping support. The CYI Learning Center will not only focus on student's academic needs, but their emotional and mental health needs as well by providing adult mentoring support, sharing resources and embedding mental health supportive activities like yoga and meditation sessions into the daily schedule. All youth will undergo a brief mental health screening prior to participating in the Center, and results from these screens will determine what needs or additional resources will need to be provided, to include referral services.

Social Enrichment:

To help ease the feelings of isolation and difficulties adjusting to the lack of extracurricular activities outside of a typical school day, the CYI Learning Center will also include spaces and resources for youth to have "down time" where they can partake in social enrichment opportunities like art, music, physical activity or socially distanced and/or virtual time to hang out with friends. We would collaborate with local organizations to bring additional resources into the CYI Learning Center for youth to have access to.

Technology and Supplies

While students in the Coatesville Area School District have been provided Chromebooks, many low-income households still struggle with securing adequate WiFi to accommodate virtual learning. Compounding the digital divide issue is many parents inability to successfully navigate internet connection or technical issues. The CYI Learning Center would have access to high speed internet and several laptops would also be available. In addition, we would conduct virtual learning sessions for parents and caregivers to learn basic technical skills to help them troubleshoot connection and computer issues that can arise during virtual learning.

Students would have adequate working spaces which would be staggered to ensure safe social distancing while also providing a quiet space for limited distractions during virtual lessons. The Center would have additional resources on

hand, including basic school supplies as well as personal protective equipment (masks, hand sanitizer, plexi-glass dividers, cleaning supplies). The CYI Learning Center will partner with the Chester County Food Bank to provide lunch and healthy snacks for students, as many of the youth in Coatesville qualify for, and rely, on free or reduced school lunches.

The estimated total cost of the CYI Learning Center is \$92,096, which equates to \$7,675 being spent on each youth participant. CYI's current annual operating budget is \$957,624 and our YTD projected deficit (as of August 2020) is \$83,312. The addition of the CYI Learning Center would be an expansion program not reflected in the 2020 annual operating budget. CYI anticipates leasing a large, centrally located community space to host the CYI Learning Center from January 2021 – December 2021. Within this timeframe, we would also use granted funds to help support the costs of Center staff, as well as necessary supplies and technology. All funds would be used within the 12-month grant period, and CYI would be committed to sustaining the cost of the Learning Center operations after initial funding. The highest expense associated with the CYI Learning Center is the leased program space. If CYI were to receive less than the desired amount of funding to successfully launch the CYI Learning Center, we would instead utilize available funds to create a Learning Center within our office space. While we would achieve many of the same outcomes as listed in this proposal, the number of youth we would be able to accommodate would be far lower.