

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: Camp Dreamcatcher, Inc.	ED/CEO Name: Patty Hillkirk
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City, State Zip: Kennett Square, PA 19348	Board Chair Name: Ginny Fineberg & KC Wolfe
Phone: 610-716-0476	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Patty Hillkirk
Website: https://campdreamcatcher.org/	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: phillkirk@kennett.net
EIN: 23-2980323	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$10,000.00
Year Founded: 1996	

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: Patty Hillkirk	Date: 10/15/20
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Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation	Education	Health
Community Development	Environment & Animal Welfare	Human Services X

Figures	Current	PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)
Annual Operating Budget	\$498,997	\$ 259,791
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	1	# 1
# Board Volunteers	11	# 11
# Committee Volunteers	40	# 60
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	125	# 270
Annual Volunteer Hours	2,000	# 12,500

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.

X	ChesCo Comm Fdn	Brandywine Health Fdtn	United Way ChesCo	ChesCo Dept Comm Devel
	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:

Camp Dreamcatcher, Inc.

The mission of Camp Dreamcatcher: To provide safe, therapeutic and educational services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families. We strive to foster an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect and understanding through volunteer opportunities, services and community involvement.

What geographic area is served? Camp Dreamcatcher provides free therapeutic and educational services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth from all of Chester County. In addition, we serve youth from Philadelphia and the surrounding counties, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Maryland. We offer the only therapeutic camp program for HIV/AIDS impacted youth on the east coast.

What population is served? How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID-19? The children attending our programs are HIV/AIDS infected themselves, have an HIV/AIDS infected family member, or have lost a family member to an AIDS related condition. We serve children ages 5-17 and their families. The numbers served have stayed consistent in our Teen Leadership Retreat (30), and dropped slightly in our Therapeutic and Educational Camp program from 120 served in 2019 to 80 in 2020. We launched a new Emergency Fund for Families this year which has served 200 people, and we expect the holiday Adopt-a-Family program to serve 140 children. The number of volunteers has declined this year due to our transition to virtual programming. 98% of the children served come from low-income families, 70% have experienced some form of abuse or trauma, 50% have lost one or both parents and 30% have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. We have served 5,700 children over the past twenty-five years.

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

The families served by Camp Dreamcatcher are already faced with the challenge of isolation due to the stigma they experience due to HIV/AIDS, and they are reaching out to us for support. Many families from Chester County are experiencing a loss of income, reduced financial and in-kind resources, are at risk for homelessness, and are experiencing understandable fears about their risk of contracting COVID-19. Our Board of Directors responded quickly to the challenge by creating a COVID-19 Crisis Management & Business Continuity Plan in early May. The idea of shutting down the vital programming we provide to children and families coping with HIV/AIDS was never an option. We made the decision to shift our annual Catching Dreams for Kids Fundraising Event and Teen Leadership Retreat to virtual formats in June, and transformed the camp session to two weeks of virtual programming in August.

In March, we conducted a needs assessment with the parents/guardians served by our programs. Food insecurity was identified as an urgent need, and we launch an **Emergency Fund for Families** to raise funds to purchase grocery gift cards and household supplies for the families. We also identified the grocery stores closest to each family. We've modified our outreach programs by delivering supplies and food either in person, or through the mail. In April, and again in August, we distributed \$100 grocery gift cards to 52 families, serving 200 people in each round of service. We modified all of our camp week programming, and camp supplies that would usually be given out on the first day of camp, were delivered to each family the week before their camp session.

What would this funding be used for? How does this demonstrate innovation, and resiliency in dealing with COVID impacts? The funding will be used to support the following goals:

Goal 1: To provide virtual programming once or twice a week to children and teens between the ages of 5-17. Programming will include movie nights, dances, concerts, karaoke, karate, therapeutic support

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groups, GAMES, story-time, tutoring/homework help and MORE! 100% of the families are interested in virtual programming similar to what we offered during the camp sessions.

Goal 2: To offer support groups, workshops, and sessions to address the issues and concerns provided to us by the parents/guardians and youth in the needs assessment.

Goal 3: To continue the Emergency Fund for Families and provide \$100 grocery gift cards to the families every three months.

Goal 4: To provide gifts for the children through the holiday Adopt-a-Family Program. We are

currently requesting wish lists from the children, which are then provided to donors who adopt a child, children or family.

Goal 5: To purchase laptop computers for the twenty children still in need of devices to log on for virtual programming.

The decision to shift to virtual programming in May required us to reflect on what the children have taught us over the years about resiliency and courage. A core group of ten volunteers & staff attended webinars and training sessions on how to successfully create a diverse program that engaged children and teens. Our response to the pandemic needed to be innovative and creative. We created five different age groups for the two weeks of camp (ages 6-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-15 & 16-17) and the camp counselors stayed with their campers in their breakout sessions. This provided a sense of safety and consistency for the children and teens. The sessions were between 25 minutes to 1.5 hours depending on the age group, and we switched between therapeutic, recreational and educational programming to keep them engaged physically and emotionally during the week.

The following is a summary of what we were able to accomplish this summer:

- 87% of the children registered for camp logged on for the ZOOM CAMP SESSIONS
- 125 counselors, medical personnel, professionals and community members volunteered – providing 650 hours of service!
- 6-10-year-olds attended two hours of camp per day during the week of August 10-14th.
- 11-17-year-old campers attended 3-4 sessions per day during the week of August 17th–21st.
- Our traditional evening programs, including the Opening Ceremony, Movie Night, Wish Log Ceremony, Dance and Talent show, were held at 7:00pm each night during the week of August 17th – 21st.
- Over \$60,000 of in-kind supplies were donated for the camp sessions, and volunteers donated \$11,400 of professional service during the camp weeks.

Program Goals Achieved:

- 70 therapeutic and educational programs were provided (psychotherapy, music therapy, art therapy, yoga, mindfulness, team building, drumming, videography, wellness – HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, healthy nutrition and hygiene - writing workshops, story-time & discussions, guided imagery, guest speakers, puberty education and the Senior Art Project).
- A Career Readiness Program was provided during the "Leaders in Training" program for the 16 & 17-year-olds. The program was held for 1.5 hours each day, and included sessions on emotional intelligence, resume writing, job interview skills, and an opportunity to network with professionals and college students in various career paths chosen by the campers (business,

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nursing, interior design, cosmetology, special education, animal science, culinary arts & baking, sports marketing, computers/IT).

- WE HAD FUN!!! 45 recreational programs were provided during the two weeks of camp, including: arts & crafts, story-time, GAMES facilitated by the PayPal volunteers, (Scavenger hunts, "Minute to Win it", Escape Rooms), BINGO, exercise, cabin time, "Jackbox" Games, and karate.
- Health Center Volunteers provided confidential Health Check-In's each week for the parents/guardians of campers to address health-related concerns. This was the first time we were able to include the parents/guardians in the camp programming.
- 31 campers received Dell Laptop Computers thanks to a generous grant from a family foundation! The computers were distributed to children in need of devices for the camp

sessions. They do not need to be returned to us, and can be used for future camp and academic virtual programming. The laptops were included in the Camper Packages, along with snacks, a water bottle, camp shirt & mask, a backpack, blanket, art/craft & game supplies for the week, Bombas socks, toiletry kits, \$100 grocery gift cards, clothing, and special gifts.

The shift to virtual programming allowed volunteers throughout the U.S. who may have been restricted from volunteering in person at camp due to proximity, the opportunity to volunteer virtually. The volunteers this summer were the most diverse we have ever had for the camp sessions. 98% of the youth served by Camp Dreamcatcher are Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC). We strive to increase the diversity of the volunteers for the camp session each year, and this summer the art session and yoga sessions were facilitated by four new BIPOC volunteers. We also incorporated empowering children's books written by BIPOC. Eleven books written, and illustrated, by BIPOC were transformed into power point presentations and read by BIPOC volunteers at story-time during the camp sessions.

What would be the community impact of this anticipated funding? We are the only agency offering comprehensive therapeutic programming to HIV/AIDS impacted youth in Chester County. For many of the children and families, we offer the only place they feel comfortable talking about HIV/AIDS. Families are feeling isolated and need support to help them through the pandemic. In the recent needs assessment, parents/guardians and children have requested programming to address "bullying and how to deal with it," "isolation and hopelessness," "feeling disconnected from others due to COVID-19 and HIV/AIDS and social contact restrictions," and "finding ways to maintain positive mental health and keep connected with camp friends." Funding will allow us to continue serving this vulnerable population.

Why is it important to fund this now? Camp Dreamcatcher is facing financial challenges due to COVID-19, and we have lost over \$50,000 in funding thus far in 2020. These losses are due to a decrease in donations from individuals, corporations and foundations. In addition, the funds from our annual Volunteer Challenge, which each year brings in \$10,000-25,000 in donations in the summer, was less than \$3,000 this summer. The annual Kennett Lions Club Fright Feast Event will not be held this year due to COVID-19, and we will be holding 3-4 fundraising events before the end of the fiscal year to raise the \$4,000 that is normally raised through this event.

How much funding is sought? The amount request is \$10,000 and this is 3.8% of our annual operating budget. Our projected deficit could be between \$5,000-10,000 this year. The amount of revenue secured will directly impact our ability to provide services during COVID-19.

What is the expected timeframe for use of funds? The funds will be used immediately to support the continuation of our therapeutic and educational programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth.