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

Contact Information

Nonprofit Org Name: Chenoa Manor	ED/CEO Name: Roberto Teti
Address: 733 Glen Willow Rd	ED/CEO E-mail: hello@chenoamanor.org
City, State Zip: Avondale, PA 19311	Board Chair Name: Christiane Moore
Phone: 717-580-1952	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Christiane Moore
Website: www.chenoamanor.org	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: christiane@paperpetual.com
EIN: 41-2076432	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$11,700
Year Founded: 2005	

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: *Christiane Moore*

Date: 10-12-2020

Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

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

Figures	Current	PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)
Annual Operating Budget	\$115,050	\$120,000
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	0	0
# Board Volunteers	9	11
# Committee Volunteers	4	5
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	8	12
Annual Volunteer Hours	3,068	4,018

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.

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:

1. Mission

Founded by Dr. Roberto Teti (a Kennett Square native and practicing veterinarian), our 25-acre peaceable kingdom is a place where animals can live free from the threat of abuse and slaughter, and teenagers can find serenity and meaning by caring for those animals. Chenoa Manor’s mission is three-fold: to offer farm and exotic animals lifetime sanctuary from situations where they have no alternative placement; to nurture and empower youth through educational programs that promote nature connectedness, communication and confidence; and to promote respect and compassion for nature through workshops and events that engage the community and public at large. It is our hope that we are not only able to offer a permanent safe space for animals in need, but that our programming helps to instill a sense of compassion and respect towards the earth and those who share it, including one another.

2. What geographic area is served?

We are located in Chester County and the majority of the youth we serve are from the surrounding area. We routinely take in animals that have been found/rescued in Chester County, but also accept animals from all over the country. Environmental and horticulture efforts are also a big part of our practice, and we work to mitigate the environmental impact of housing farm animals in Chester County through planting pollinator-friendly native flowers, strategic shrub and tree plantings within the White Clay Creek riparian buffer (overseen by Stroud Water Research Center), as well as fruits and vegetables that can be fed to our residents.

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

Accredited with the American Sanctuary Association, Chenoa Manor is a permanent Animal Sanctuary, providing a safe living environment for 250 unwanted and neglected animals, including geese, pigs, sheep, cows, tortoises, horses, rabbits, parrots, goats and more. Daily care is provided, including feeding, watering, grooming, enrichment activities and medical care. While we are continuing to supply comprehensive care for our animal residents, current financial and volunteer struggles due to COVID-19 have decreased the amount of new animals we have been able to accept. We have currently had to implement a large animal placement freeze, and without additional funding will not be able to accept new residents until likely Spring 2021.

In addition to caring for our animal residents, as an Education Center we host workshops, art programs, tours and events for the community, with a focus on youth development. Pre-COVID, we welcomed approximately 400-500 visitors per year, and were able to serve on average about 75-100 young people annually through school retreats, clubs, internships and other hands-on programs. In compliance with state and federal safety regulations, we had to cancel programming in the first half of 2020. Throughout the summer we were able to host some socially distanced events and workshops, but due to school closures and remote learning, many of our youth programs were cancelled.

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

COVID-19 has put an immense strain on our fundraising and volunteer hours this year. In the first two quarters of 2019, in-person events and workshops accounted for 31% of our revenue, a total of \$9,166. As we were unable to host any programs in Q1 and Q2 of 2020, our revenue from events and workshops was down to only 5% of our YTD revenue, totaling \$1,750. This reduction in program-generated revenue was exacerbated by the economic effects from COVID-19, and we have found that not only are overall individual donations down, but charities focusing on animal welfare are not considered as important as those providing the human services that are sorely needed during the pandemic.

In addition to the financial impact, we have also experienced a labor shortage due to COVID-19. As a 100% volunteer-run organization, we also rely heavily on volunteers to assist with daily upkeep and animal care. With the lockdown, college closures and individual safety concerns, volunteer hours have dropped significantly.

As a 100% volunteer-run organization, our budget is already extremely lean. In reaction to COVID-19 funding difficulties we have done our best to cut any expenses possible, partnering with local businesses for produce donations and growing supplemental food for our residents on-site. We have gotten creative with online and socially-distanced programming, and increased our monthly marketing outreach with more email campaigns and digital fundraising efforts. We have also increased our grant outreach, and have partnered with a grant writing consultant to improve our process.

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?

We are requesting funding to be used to pay the salary of a Farm Hand Assistant for a 6-month contract, starting 11-1-2020 and ending 4-30-2021. Not only will we be able to hire a member of the Chester County community during a time when unemployment is at a high, we will also be able to lift our large-animal placement freeze and accept additional local animals in need of permanent placement. Winter is an incredibly difficult time for animals in need of care and shelter, and it is integral that we receive funding immediately to support our daily operations over the next few months.

While this grant will directly pay for farm upkeep and animal care (an area that is sorely needed for our organization to be **resilient**, despite this year's decrease in volunteers and service hours), it will also indirectly allow our current Program Chair and board of volunteers the time and space to develop an **innovative**, remote Alternative Breaks youth program for students that are unable to visit Chenoa due to the pandemic. In the past, our youth programming has been centered around in-person education and interaction with animals, as well as hands-on work in the pastures and gardens. With this grant, we will develop a remote version of our popular Alternative Breaks program. We will utilize video and digital conferencing services to bring Chenoa to "visiting" students, utilizing a combination of live feeds of the farm, educators and speakers who work in animal and nature-related fields, and group discussion and collaboration focused on building community and communication skills. Once this program is developed, we will be able to offer a similar workshop again and again, allowing us to serve more youth both locally and nationally, whether or not they are able to visit in person.

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 the amount of \$11,700 to be used to pay the salary of a Farm Hand Assistant for a 6-month contract, starting 11-1-2020 and ending 4-30-2021. This contract will include working 30 hours per week at a pay rate of \$15/hr. Funds would be set aside and allocated for the duration of this contract term.

This funding would make up about 10% of our current, revised budget of \$115,050. We entered 2020 with a projected budget of \$120,000, lowered it to \$105,000 when the pandemic hit, and had to readjust again recently due to substantial fence damages caused by the recent flooding. While this grant will not make up the full financial deficit we are expecting, it will allow us to mitigate the volunteer hour deficit that we believe will continue through mid-2021.