CHESTER COUNTY
community
FOUNDATION
28 W. Market Street, Lincoln Biography Building
West Chester, PA 19382
610.696.8211 www.chescocf.org

Restore
CHESTER COUNTY

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: Schuylkill River Heritage Center	ED/CEO Name: Barbara Cohen, President & CEO
Address: The Foundry 2 Main St. P.O. Box 427	ED/CEO E-mail: allbar@aol.com
City, State Zip: Phoenixville, PA 19460	Board Chair Name: Barbara Cohen
Phone: 610-935-2181	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Barbara Cohen
Website: www.phoenixvillefoundry.org	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: allbar@aol.com
EIN: 20-4082049	Grant $ Amount Requested: $9,000
Year Founded: 2006	

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: Barbara Cohen, President	Date: October 14, 2020

Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

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

Figures	Current	PRE-COVID *(as of 1/1/20)*
Annual Operating Budget	48,154	$39,154
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	3 docents	# 3 docents
# Board Volunteers	14	# 14
# Committee Volunteers	12	# 12
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	3	# 8
Annual Volunteer Hours	1,280	# 1,320

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:

Mission   The Schuylkill River Heritage Center's mission is to educate everyone about the cultural and industrial heritage of the greater Phoenixville region and the Schuylkill River watershed and to inform visitors about the many resources in Chester County.

What geographic area is served? *(If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served)* The Schuylkill River Heritage Center (SRHC) serves all of Chester County. The SRHC also has visitors from Philadelphia and Montgomery County, as well as bicyclists and hikers using the Schuylkill River Trail (SRT), since the SRHC is located in The Foundry which is adjacent to Phoenixville's entry point for the SRT. The SRHC also functions as the northern Chester County gateway for everyone.

What population is served? How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID? The SRHC serves the general population and all age groups. Our numbers have been strongly impacted by the Covid pandemic in several ways. Normally, the SRHC hosts second and fourth grade students from several public, private and charter schools throughout the school year. Second graders are mandated by the PA curriculum to learn about the community where they live, and fourth graders are mandated to learn about Pennsylvania. The SRHC provides a unique and meaningful learning experience for the students. Because of the Covid pandemic, all student visits for the current school year have been cancelled. This has also resulted in needing fewer volunteers to participate since there are no student groups to guide and manage.

The SRHC also hosts special visits from senior and community groups, but these visits have been cancelled for this year because of the pandemic and the number of people allowed to enter the SRHC at one time. Our museum and visitors center is open to the public with regular hours of operation every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, throughout the year. The SRHC usually hosts special, relevant evening presentations for our members six times per year; in the spring and the fall. These presentations are now being featured online so members and guests can participate by connecting to Zoom.

What has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?
Following the PA mandated restrictions, the SRHC was closed from min-March through August this year. With the restrictions eased in late summer, the SRHC reopened in September. Visitors are required to wear masks, our docents sign them in on our register, hand sanitizers are provided, and visitors are limited to six at one time. There are many new people moving to Phoenixville because of its quality of life and walkability. The SRHC is situated in the center of Phoenixville's nationally registered Historic District, where two new large apartment complexes have been built. Many new residents who now live close by, are motivated to visit the SRHC to learn more about the community and the region where they have chosen to live. The Covid-19 restrictions have significantly impacted the SRHC, since we cannot host the large number of groups of students, seniors and visitors that would normally be able to come to the SRHC. This has limited the number of new members that would normally join our museum as a result of their positive experience from their visit. The SRHC is strongly dependent on its membership income for its operational costs, so the SRHC is coping by offering online virtual tours and Zoom presentations. Choosing to reopen has helped our situation, but the limited number of visitors allowed inside at one time is still a challenge.

What would this funding be used for? How does this demonstrate <u>innovation</u> and <u>resiliency</u> in dealing with COVID impacts? What would be the community impact of this anticipated funding? Why is it important to fund this <u>now</u>?
Although the SRHC has many archival artifacts, paintings and mural on display for visitors, it also functions as a northern Chester County gateway. When visitors enter they immediately see a large Chester County interactive exhibit that showcases many places in the county. There is even a large illuminated map on the display panel, adjacent to the interactive monitor that shows the locations of places throughout the county. Visitors click on a list of choices shown on the map and the monitor to search for a particular site to find information about the place which they had an interest in visiting. **This critically important interactive exhibit suddenly failed** this spring since the outdated Adobe system was no longer functioning. **It needs to be replaced as soon as possible by an HTML5 system**; which is the current technology used. The new system will also include the county's regional trails and a **Path to Freedom Trail** since Chester County played a vital role in supporting the abolition of slavery in the 19th century. It is critically important **to make the necessary infrastructure changes as soon as possible**. If we can make use of this time, when we are allowed only limited capacity, we will have the Chester County interactive information ready when the restrictions on the number of visitors are lifted. At this time a poster showing iron & steel sites in Chester County is covering the defunct monitor. (A photo is attached) We have already formed a committee to work on the innovative changes that will be part of the new exhibit.

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?
The SRHC is requesting a grant of **$9,000** to cover the cost for Miller Designworks to make the changes to the Chester County interactive exhibit that are necessary to make it operational. (A budget summary with a photograph is attached)

This unexpected expense was not part of our operating budget of $39,154, so adding the $9,000 creates a deficit of $9,000. If this request is approved the process of making the changes could begin immediately since Miller Designworks has readily available content used for projects they completed for the Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau.

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

x	This **Innovation & Resiliency Fund Grant Request** cover sheet & brief narrative
x	Current annual operating budget & most recent audit
x	501c3 determination letter
x	Current strategic plan. If none, explain why your nonprofit doesn't have a plan.
x	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
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