

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-19, 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-19 impacts
- Nonprofits with substantial costs to comply with COVID-19 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: The Garage Community & Youth Center	ED/CEO Name: Kristin Proto
Address: 115 S. Union Street	ED/CEO E-mail: Kristin.proto@garageyouthcenter.org
City, State Zip: Kennett Square, PA 19348	Board Chair Name: Scott Walker
Phone: 610-444-6464	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Kate Martin
Website: www.garageyouthcenter.org	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: kate.martin@garageyouthcenter.org
EIN: 10-0007967	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$25,000
Year Founded: 2001	

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: Kristin Proto	Date: 10/15/20
--------------------------	----------------

Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health
<input checked="" 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	\$722,934	\$ 722,934
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	5	# 5
# Board Volunteers	10	# 10
# Committee Volunteers	4	# 4
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	129	# 318
Annual Volunteer Hours	1,380	# 2,769

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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	United Way S ChesCo	<input type="checkbox"/>	ChesCo Dept Health
Other significant funders: PEW Charitable Trust, Exelon, PhI Foundation						<input type="checkbox"/>	ChesCo Dept Human Svcs

Narrative: In a few concise paragraphs, please explain:

1. Mission

The mission of The Garage is to empower youth to pursue their potential academically, relationally, and spiritually. Our desired impact is to help youth make wise decisions about themselves, their core convictions, their relationships, their educational pursuits, and interactions with their communities. We assist students to begin a cycle of hopefulness by acknowledging and taking steps to overcome life challenges, engage in Garage programs, trusting The Garage as a second home, taking part in shaping activities, and enjoying Garage experiences.

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

The Garage is proud to serve the Southern Chester County region for nearly two decades. In 2001, a local pastor and businessman saw the opportunity for a reclaimed car garage to serve a greater purpose than service vehicles. The Garage Community & Youth Center was born from his passion to serve the community and almost two decades later, we continue to thrive in Kennett Square. This success launched the desire to open a second location to serve more youth in the surrounding communities. In 2011, The West Grove location opened its doors to local youth.

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

The Garage serves a diverse group of 6th-12th grade students comprising 82% Latino, 3% African American, 7% Mixed race, and 8% Caucasian. Our target population is from economically depressed households with parents who work long hours in the mushroom industry and face numerous language and cultural challenges; these students lacked the home academic support needed to overcome these challenges because the majority of their parents do not speak English and have not completed their own secondary education. Many students come from single parent and economically disadvantaged households, of which neither the mother nor the father is the primary caretaker. The students who come to The Garage face substantial struggles and are looking for support to navigate through complex issues such as domestic violence, dysfunctional homes, addiction, desire to drop out of school, self-mutilation, teen pregnancy, peer pressure related to drugs/alcohol/sex, language barriers, and peer/familial discouragement regarding academic achievement. Like many other organizations, on March 13, 2020, our in-person programs came to an unexpected stop. Within a week, on March 20th, The Garage pivoted to Virtual Garage Youth Programs via social media and zoom, as well as began collecting and distributing emergency food and household supply boxes to families in our community. From March 20th through August 31st, The Garage served 119 students through Virtual Garage, less than half of our normal youth enrollment during similar time periods. However, The Garage's Supply Drive served 2,875 individuals in a completely new service stream.

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

To comply with health and safety regulations, The Garage closed its doors for in-person programming in March 2020. Prior to closures, The Garage served up to 500 community youth annually and provided essential services including academic support, nutritious meals, enrichment, and post-secondary counseling. While our doors were closed, community youth were displaced from academic support and economic opportunities while Garage families were overwhelmed with unemployment, child care, attempting to provide education, nutritious meals, and daily basic needs. The Garage responded to the needs of the community through the provision of essential supplies through implementation of a COVID-19 Supply Drive which supported the requests for basic household items including paper products, cleaning supplies, soaps, hygiene products, laundry detergent, diapers and other baby supplies. Further, The Garage has developed a stronger partnership with the Chester County Food Bank to offer weekly boxes of 20lbs of produce, up to 10lbs of non-perishable canned goods, and pre-packaged lunch and dinner meals, and other food as available. The Supply Drive operated from March through August, serving 575 families, comprised of 2,875 individuals of whom 77% lost work due to COVID-19. Currently, The Garage is currently providing the emergency food and household supplies to the 68 students who attend our community classrooms as a way to continue to combat food insecurity for our families. All of these supply services are new to The Garage as of March 2020.

Since reopening our doors for students on August 31st, The Garage prioritizes the health and safety of students during in-person programming by providing socially distanced work spaces equipped with plexiglass dividers and implementing a mandatory mask policy. Work stations are sanitized daily along with all flatware and glasses in our commercial grade dishwasher. Items that are able to be single use including paper products and cutlery are utilized to further promote cleanliness.

The Garage is proud to be open for the 2020-2021 school year, but in a manner that complies with the health and safety of the students, staff, and community. The Garage's programs operate in a hybrid style format with the combination of in-person Community Classroom programming and continuation of Virtual Garage broadcasting. The Garage harnesses the power of social media platforms to broadcast Virtual Garage programming including Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok. This school year, we are excited to offer the following programs:

Community Classrooms: The Garage's in-person programming operates Monday-Thursday, 10:00AM to 4:00PM with reoccurring groups of students at both of our centers, as well as at two local partner organizations to increase the capacity of students served. This model can provide students with in-person virtual academic support, transportation, meals and

nutrition, enrichment activities, social-emotional support, and recreational activities. All Health and Safety guidelines are adhered to at all locations.

Virtual Tutoring: Through the use of Zoom technology, students are matched with volunteer tutors who provide daily-individualized homework help in specific subject areas. School closures have impacted our student population in a drastic manner and have compounded existing challenges, resulting in lowered academic success and motivation. To combat these trends, an entire hour of program is dedicated to academics, tutoring, and school work completion.

Community Service: Now, more than ever, the actions of service over self are valued and needed in our community. The Garage offers opportunities for community service, both volunteer and court mandated, to those who are looking to serve our mission and community. The Garage deeply values its relationships with fellow community partners and is looking forward to safe and healthy community service opportunities in the community this school year.

Virtual Enrichment: Our Enrichment activities fuse tutoring, mentoring, and service in order to holistically support our students. In-Person activities and Virtual Engagement videos will be used to ensure that students are not only developing and growing academically, but also manifesting self-discovery including personal, intellectual, social, and emotional through Boys and Girls programs, our two most popular enrichment activities.

Virtual Self Care: The Garage recognizes that health is more than physical upkeep, but mental and emotional as well. The mental health effects of COVID-19 have been felt both locally and universally by many. The Garage recognizes this trend and will engage Virtual and In-person Self Care programming to provide students with therapeutic tools to navigate complex emotions and feelings and form practical healthy relationship skills with oneself and others.

Nutrition Kitchen Cafe: The Garage provides a nutritious meal at each in-person session to nourish our students physically, but also to provide fuel and focus for the day's activities. We work with many partners including local restaurants, The Chester County Food Bank, and surrounding grocery stores to provide food and supplies to our students on a regular basis.

MAPS (Motivating and Advancing Powerful Students): We focus on advising and counseling Garage students as they prepare for and transition to life after high school graduation. MAPS offers in-person presentations and virtual sessions related to career interests and opportunities, post-secondary education and training programs, and personal aptitude and passion identification. The Garage's Graduate Coordinator works with high school students at both Garage centers to navigate the new system of post-secondary success in relation to COVID-19.

Career Compass: The Garage's workforce development program is an extension to our summer program opportunities. Because many of our student's families depend on them financially, summer is typically when students are not engaged with The Garage or any other support programs. Unfortunately, employment opportunities for youth are limited, and most students resort to a strenuous agricultural job. Through Career Compass, students are hired and paid to work at host sites around the community related to their post-secondary career interests. This program enrolled and served 17 students during the summer of 2020, as it was an essential need for households to generate income, The Garage's leaderships prioritized this paid work experience for our youth.

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 provided by the Chester County Community Foundation would be used to support The Garage's daytime Community Classroom program including increase staffing, upgraded internet systems, program materials, food, and additional health and safety supplies. As local schools launched with an all virtual model, many at-risk students have simply been left behind. With the lack of parental support, language barriers, technology barriers (including internet "dead spots" across our community's lowest income housing areas), and lack of affordable, our families are pushed further into poverty by the repercussions of COVID-19. Many of our families living in poverty are simply existing in crisis mode, looking to fill the basic needs of their households, and do not have the capacity or ability to focus on the schoolwork of their children.

Currently, The Garage's Community Classroom program operates Monday-Thursday, 10:00AM to 4:00PM with reoccurring groups of students at both of our centers, as well as at two local partner organizations (Kennett Presbyterian Church and West Grove Fire Company) to increase the capacity of students served. Students are now able to receive direct school day support, resources, and services as they engage in virtual learning. With the implementation of virtual school attendance in an in-person setting, students are able to receive support in real time, and engage deeply with not only their teachers, but Garage staff as well. Further, students are receiving nutritious meals every day to build healthy habits and fuel them for the day ahead while additionally receiving grocery supplies to bring home to their families to provide relief during the rebuilding in the wake of COVID-19. Garage Out of School time program provides opportunities for youth who have been displaced from school, activities, and other forms of enrichment to thrive in a healthy and engaging manner that not only supports their well-being, but the well-being of the community by adhering to CDC guidelines.

While there has been a major pivot and adaptation to our approach of service, our mission remains the same: to empower students to reach their potential academically, relationally, and spiritually. The Community Classroom programs implemented by The Garage represent the tenacity of our organization and its population. The current services provided remain rooted in the organization's principals of promoting academic and professional success, providing a safe environment, and providing economic opportunities all while building self-esteem, leadership, and civility. However, these principals are now implemented in a manner that complies with health and safety standards and allows us to expand upon our skills as a community provider. The Garage has made innovative changes to services, including raising our weekly open hours from 16 to 24 hours each week, that continue to benefit our population including expanded technology services, higher levels of food distribution, and deeper means of engagement all while adapting to the unpredictable future of youth programming.

The Garage has always served a community population that has faced large scale issues including generational poverty and language and cultural barriers. These issues have only been further compounded by the effects of COVID-19 and have created a ripple effect within our population. Further, during these times of virtual learning, many Garage youth are expected to perform familial responsibilities including child care and providing education of younger siblings, forgoing their own. These moments in the aftermath of COVID-19 are pivotal in the future of community youth. Students are faced with life altering decisions, opportunities, and needs, all of which are difficult to navigate alone. The Garage continues to provide support, resources, and opportunities that allow students to pursue their highest potential, even in the face of national adversity. The community served by The Garage has faced so many challenges, but has demonstrated an inspiring resilience which encourages The Garage to strive for greater academic achievement and deeply engaged citizenry within its youth population to ensure that their futures include greater economic earning power to break the cycles of generational poverty and overall improve the Southern Chester County region.

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?

The Garage respectfully requests \$25,000 to support our program during the 2020-2021 school year. The amount requested equals approximately 3% of our total annual operating budget. Based on current expense and revenue reports, The Garage will run a potential deficit of \$72,036 in the 2020-21 School year. The amount requested equals approximately 34% of our projected deficit. If funds were granted, they would be used immediately upon receipt as The Garage is currently operating at full capacity to implement the programs outlined. The support of the Chester County Community Foundation and other partners will provide vulnerable and disenfranchised youth with the resources they need to support an equitable learning environment in the 2020-2021 school year.

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

This Innovation & Resiliency Fund Grant Request 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

www.chescocf.org
grants@chescocf.org 610.696.8211