

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.** **Only electronic grant applications** are 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 located and providing services in Chester County

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 located in Chester County, PA
- 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. Religious entities with social & human service outreach programs must provide 501 (c) (3).
- 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 ###





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

Contact Information

Nonprofit Org Name: Kennett Area Community Service (KACS)	ED/CEO Name: Leah Reynolds
Address: 136 West Cedar Street	ED/CEO E-mail: Leah@kacsonline.net
City, State Zip: Kennett Square, PA 19348	Board Chair Name: Lynne Seligman
Phone: (610) 925-3556	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Leah Reynolds
Website: www.KACSONLINE.NET	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: Leah@kacsonline.net
EIN: 23-2215441	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$100,000
Year Founded: over 66 years ago	

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: Leah M Reynolds, Executive Director	Date: 10/26/2020
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Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

<input type="checkbox"/> Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation	<input 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	\$2.2 million	\$ 1,791,000
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	9	7
# Board Volunteers	12	9
# Committee Volunteers	7 committees	6 committees
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	15	75
Annual Volunteer Hours	322	13,000

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 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:			<input type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Dept Human Svcs

Narrative: In a few concise paragraphs, please explain:

- Mission:** *Strengthening the Community in Southern Chester County through Food, Housing and Crisis Services*
- What geographic area is served?** *(If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served)*
KACS serves in Southern Chester County. We serve the complete area of 3 neighboring school districts (Kennett Consolidated; Unionville-Chadds Ford; and Avon Grove)
- 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?**

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?**
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?**

Thank you for considering our appeal. As you are aware KACS has had a substantial increase in emergency assistance requests since April as the effects of the COVID19 shutdown resulted in hundreds of local families suffering from layoffs and unemployment. As of today, KACS has paid out **\$522,289.70** (573 requests) to help families stay in their homes. *(For the same time frame last year, KACS paid out approximately \$93,000 in emergency assistance.)* Additionally, we have seen an increase in homelessness due to COVID19 and have, unfortunately, had 3 people that we were working with die from COVID19.

KACS has been and continues to purchase fresh produce, milk, bread, and proteins to supplement the prepacked boxes of food we give to families since the stores that regularly gave us these things stopped giving donations in March. So far, we have spent **\$24,000** to do so. To date, KACS has had **over 10,000** people visit the Food Cupboard since March.

To challenge us even further our Resource Center building was flooded multiple times when the hurricanes and storms came through the area in August. The building has serious mold issues and is unable to be used. I have relocated staff to temporary office space and just last week had to lease a modular trailer, so our emergency assistance staff has somewhere to work. This relocation of staff and the modular building cost us almost **\$20,000**. The Board of Directors is now looking for a permanent home for KACS to do its operations and KACS is in conversation with the Chester County Food Bank about the possibility of becoming a distribution site in southern Chester County for the Food Bank – if we can find a space large enough to move into.

To add to this, when those weather events took place there were **28 families** that lost their homes in Avondale because of flooding. The Red Cross contacted me after the first week and asked KACS to take over. On top of the 70-100 weekly requests we receive, these 28 families also received case management, weekly food support and we have had a majority of them in a hotel while we worked to get each family stably rehoused. As of this week, we still have 4 families in the hotel. The Fairfield Inn worked with me on a cheaper rate but to date, we have now paid out **\$28,000** specifically for these hotel stays.

KACS has had to spend an additional **\$53,000** in salaries to accommodate the increased staffing demands & workloads. Our volunteer corps of 75 people had to be suspended in March because we do not have the space to safely social distance and many of the volunteers are in the high-risk group for COVID19. Additionally, we need to hire another Case Advocate Social Worker for the dramatic increase in request and that salary will be **\$52,000**.

Our continued increased need from families averages 70-100 requests for emergency assistance. The communities we serve are not out of crisis. We need your help and support to keep helping these families.