

## 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 ###





**Contact Information**

Nonprofit Org Name: Kennett After-School Assoc.	ED/CEO Name: Dawn Doherty Kohl
Address: P.O. Box 1068	ED/CEO E-mail: <a href="mailto:afterthebell@kcsd.org">afterthebell@kcsd.org</a>
City, State Zip: Kennett Square, PA 19348	Board Chair Name: Dr. Rudolph Karkosak
Phone: 610-268-5889	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Dawn Doherty Kohl
Website: <a href="http://www.afterthebell.org">www.afterthebell.org</a>	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: <a href="mailto:afterthebell@kcsd.org">afterthebell@kcsd.org</a>
EIN: 23-2984132	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$10,000
Year Founded: 1998	

*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:	Date:
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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 type="checkbox"/> Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment & Animal Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Services

Figures	Current	PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)
Annual Operating Budget	\$151,902	\$199,661
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	2	2
# Board Volunteers	14	15
# Committee Volunteers	16 (includes some board)	16
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	30*	#166
Annual Volunteer Hours	~600*	# ~3320

\* During the pandemic, all of our volunteers either created videos or facilitated Live Zoom activities. Without students on site, we require far fewer volunteers.

**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 type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Comm Fdn	<input type="checkbox"/> Brandywine Health Fdtn	<input type="checkbox"/> United Way ChesCo	<input type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Dept Comm Devel
<input type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Fund/W&Girls	<input type="checkbox"/> Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn	<input type="checkbox"/> United Way S ChesCo	<input type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Dept Health
Other significant funders: Hamilton Family Charitable Trust, Applestone Foundation			<input type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Dept Human Svcs

**Narrative:** In a few concise paragraphs, please explain:

**1. Mission**

**Mission Statement for After-The-Bell:**

*After-The-Bell provides a supervised after-school program of recreational, social, and academic skill-developing activities for Kennett Middle School students. The program is led by community volunteers and provided without charge.*

**Vision Statement of the Kennett After-School Association:**

*All middle school children will have a safe, enriching environment to go to after school.*

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

Our traditional geographic area is the Kennett Consolidated School District, which includes the communities of Kennett Square Borough, Kennett Township, New Garden, and a portion of East Marlborough. HOWEVER, during the Covid Pandemic, we have made our program available to students in neighboring school districts, specifically Coatesville, Avon Grove, and Unionville-Chadds Ford.

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

The program is designed for middle school students and is available to public students as well as students who are home-schooled or attend charter schools. As will be described below, we have changed our activities from in-person to virtual during the pandemic. As such, we are unable to determine specifically how many students engage in our on-demand activities. We can report, however, that traffic on the virtual page of our website shows significant interest and participation. In April and May of 2020, when our Virtual Program first went live, we had 719 visitors who participated in 1,037 sessions. By comparison, in the Fall of 2019 and Winter of 2020, prior to the pandemic, we enrolled 323 students in our in-person program.

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

When the pandemic hit, we spent about a day lamenting all that we would not be able to do for our kids; that we would not be able to offer them the the wonderful in-person activities they love so much. We were faced with the choice of either cancelling our Spring Cycle or finding a way to continue offering students meaningful activities through a virtual program. Without hesitation and with the strong support of so many individuals and organizations, we chose the latter.

**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?**

After-The-Bell is more than a place. It is an idea. In addition to keeping students safe after school, After-The-Bell is about introducing middle school students to new experiences and learning opportunities that can sometimes change the trajectory of their lives.

When the pandemic hit we quickly realized that we could continue to offer these experiences and opportunities to our students through virtual activities. Together with our staff, volunteers, board members and incredible community partners, we put together a virtual cycle that was as fun, unique and meaningful as any we have offered in person during the last two decades.

On April 22, the After-The-Bell Spring 2020 Virtual Cycle went live and students were invited to participate in more than 30 activities including amazing videos and tutorials on a wealth of topics of interest to adolescent students. These included *Explore the Science of Roller Coasters Disney Style!*, *The Healing Power of Nature* (offered by the Delaware Nature Society), and *Make Your Own Churros*. Many of the activities were offered in English and Spanish.

During the summer, we hoped for the best but planned for the possibility that we would not be able to welcome students back in person in the Fall. So when the Kennett Consolidated School District announced that there would be no in-person classes in the Fall, we were ready to go with an enhanced Virtual program that also included Live activities facilitated by volunteers over Zoom. These live activities, that began in September, include *Intro to 3-D Modeling & Manufacturing*, *Nearby Nature*, *Art Club with Kennett Design*, and *Dance, Dance, Dance*.

Funding from the Chester County Nonprofit Innovation & Resiliency Fund would be used in the following ways:

- **Technology support**. It was extraordinarily fortuitous that in December 2019, only a few months before the pandemic hit this country, the Longwood Foundation awarded us a grant to completely redesign and enhance our website. Without these upgrades, which were completed by the beginning of February 2020, we never would have had the technical ability to provide our virtual program. Once the pandemic hit, we immediately reached out to the contractor who had redesigned the website for us and asked her to help us design and implement the on-demand virtual program. As we have moved forward to add a live component to the virtual program, the contractor continues to provide valuable assistance to ensure that we are able to give our students a user-friendly and meaningful virtual experience. In addition, we have engaged the services of a social media consultant who has helped us to stay in touch with our students and their parents to promote the availability of the virtual program. The consultant is also helping us to stay in touch with our supporters to let them know the great things that continue to happen at After-The-Bell during the pandemic.

- Purchase of activity-specific supplies to be delivered to the homes of participating students. Many of our activities involve necessary items including art and cooking supplies, as well as science and model-building kits, etc. These items are purchased by After-The-Bell and delivered to each student's home by staff and volunteers. We also deliver existing equipment such as guitars. We have heard from many parents that having these items delivered directly to their homes has brightened the day for many of our students.
- Costs associated with welcoming students back in person. We are optimistic that we will be able to welcome students back to the program for in-person activities later in the current program year and we are currently taking all necessary steps to provide them with a safe and worthwhile experience. Transportation, particularly ensuring that all students can have a bus ride home, has been a key to the success and popularity of After-The-Bell. We recognize that social distancing will be required on the buses, so we anticipate arranging for additional buses to transport students home and to transport them to the wonderful offsite activities provided by our community partners. We will also need to ensure that we employ enhanced cleaning procedures and possibly the installation of plexiglass barriers to guarantee the safety of students, volunteers and staff.
- Staffing and volunteers costs. After-The-Bell has always relied on the generous donation of time by hundreds of volunteers. A majority of our volunteers are retired professionals and other senior citizens who enjoy sharing their expertise and passion with our students. We are mindful, however, that it may be some time before older volunteers will feel safe in returning to the program. For this reason, we plan to embark on a major volunteer recruitment effort to reach out to college students and younger men and women who might be able to volunteer with us. We will also continue to recruit high school students. Although volunteers under the age of 18 are not allowed to oversee activities without an adult present, the enthusiastic assistance of high school students at this time will be more important than ever. There will be some costs associated with this recruitment effort. In addition, we may need to hire additional part time staff to assist with the facilitation of activities and the enhanced cleaning requirements that will enable us to safely welcome students back.

The impact of this funding would make it possible for us to continue and enhance a high quality and meaningful virtual program of both on-demand and live activities for adolescent students. It will also help us to make any and all adjustments necessary to create a safe, nurturing and rewarding environment for our students as soon as it is possible to welcome them back.

It is important to fund After-The-Bell at this time in order to ensure the current and future viability of this unique program. After-The-Bell first opened its doors in 1999 and has served more than 6,000 students over the years. The coronavirus pandemic represents the most significant challenge to raising funds that we have ever faced. We are already hearing from a number of funders who have supported After-The-Bell for years, letting us know that this year they will either not be able to provide support, or will fund us at a much lower level than in previous years.

In addition, we were not able to hold a planned fundraiser in March 2020 and do not anticipate holding any in-person fundraisers for several months at minimum. We are currently working on a very exciting idea for a socially-distant fundraiser that we would hold in partnership with another area not-for-profit. We hope to announce this soon and will forward the information to you as soon as details are finalized.

We know that many wonderful not-for-profit organizations will not survive this pandemic. Our board and our many friends and supporters are committed to ensuring that After-The-Bell survives and returns stronger than ever. We are extremely grateful to the Chester County Community Foundation for your efforts to help the many extraordinary organizations in Chester County at this difficult time.

**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 \$10,000 which will offset the costs as outlined in the response to the previous question and will help to reduce the anticipated deficit we are facing this year. While our overall costs are slightly lower at this time because we are not currently providing transportation or healthy snacks for our students, the significant drop in funding that we have already seen in the last seven months has left us with an anticipated deficit of more than \$30,000 or 17% of our \$151,902 budget.

One of the most frustrating aspects of this pandemic is the uncertainty it engenders. In regard to our timeline, we know that for now, we will continue to run a virtual program and we will be prepared to welcome students back as soon as it is safe to do so. The awarding of a \$10,000 grant will enable us to continue and enhance our virtual program as we prepare to meet all necessary school district and CDC guidelines to safely welcome our students back in person.

Please e-mail all materials as a word.doc and/or pdf to [grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org):

This <b>Innovation &amp; Resiliency Fund Grant Request</b> 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://chescofc.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

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[grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org) 610.696.8211