



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



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

**Contact Information**

Nonprofit Org Name: Oxford Area Senior Center	ED/CEO Name: Jim McLeod
Address: 12 East Locust Street	ED/CEO E-mail: jdmcleod@oxfordseniors.org
City, State Zip: Oxford, PA 19363	Board Chair Name: Ira Binder
Phone: (610) 932-5244	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Jim McLeod
Website: www.oxfordseniors.org	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: jdmcleod@oxfordseniors.org
EIN: 23-2469157	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$15,000
Year Founded: 1987	

*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: Jim McLeod	Date: 10/21/2020
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**Nonprofit Field/s of Interest**

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

Figures	Current	PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)
Annual Operating Budget	\$ 308,180*	\$ 308,180
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	4.6	4.6
# Board Volunteers	15	15
# Committee Volunteers	15	15
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	10	82
Annual Volunteer Hours	120 Fiscal Year to date	2,854

\*BOD agreed to extend 2019-2020 Budget to current fiscal year.

**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	X	United Way ChesCo	ChesCo Dept Comm Devel
ChesCo Fund/W&Girls	Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn	X	United Way S ChesCo	ChesCo Dept Health
Other significant funders:				X ChesCo Dept Human Svcs (ChesCo Dept of Aging)

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

**1. Mission**

The mission of the Oxford Area Senior Center (OASC) is to enhance the quality of life of senior citizens in southern Chester County by providing programs and services that promote health, wellness, and fellowship.

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

The OASC serves individuals residing in 17 municipalities throughout the Avon Grove, Oxford Area, and Octorara School Districts. Almost 60% of our participants reside in the borough of Oxford.

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

During our 2019-20 fiscal year, the OASC served approximately 1,015 individuals ages 60 and older. They are mainly women (83%) and a large percentage of our seniors live alone. They are of modest means (18% have incomes at or below poverty level) and the remainder survive on a limited income.

Service numbers are lower than pre-COVID years since our facility is closed for programming. However, we have seen a 19 % increase in the number of “take-home” meals that we are providing for seniors since March 2020.

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

To comply with State mandated regulations, the OASC has been closed for in-person programming since March 16, 2020. Prior to the closure, we offered the following within our facility:

- A daily congregate meal and supplemental food programs
- Health and wellness programming
- Social, recreational, and educational activities
- Technology assistance
- Information & referral resources

Although currently unable to provide in-person programs or activities, staff remains vigilant in its efforts to provide support for vulnerable seniors in different ways that comply with COVID-19 safety guidelines. Focusing first on **essential needs**, we quickly shifted from our in-facility daily congregate meal program to “take home” meals. Partnering with the Chester County Food Bank and the Chester County Department of Aging, we coordinated the distribution and delivery of cold/frozen meals, senior food boxes and FEMA meals. Staff members began our “COVID Outreach Program”, contacting at-risk individuals to make sure they were aware of the meals that were being distributed at the Center. If any individual was uncomfortable leaving their home, our staff delivered meals and other needed supplies to them. During the March – September 2020 timeframe, we have provided 2,734 meals and 123 senior food boxes to more than 100 nutritionally at-risk seniors in our community.

We then expanded the “COVID Outreach Program” to individuals who lived alone or lacked social/emotional support networks. Staff members made regular “Wellness Calls” to touch base with these individuals, to see how they were doing and if they needed referrals for additional resources.

In July, we began offering outdoor fitness classes at Nottingham Park. Physical activity is important for older adults as it increases their ability to live independently in their homes and communities and reduces the risk of falling and fracturing bones. Experts agree that exercise is especially important during the pandemic because it can reduce stress, prevent weight gain, boost the immune system, and improve sleep. The exercise sessions have been well attended and we plan to continue to offer these classes as the weather allows.

October 15<sup>th</sup> marks the start of Open Enrollment for Medicare Part D - Prescription Coverage. The senior center will be taking appointments for in-person sessions with our Information and Assistance (I&A) Specialist, who will answer questions and provide individualized guidance through this complicated process. **All appointments will comply with COVID-19 safety protocols** (face coverings required, only 2 individuals allowed for each appointment, and work areas will be sanitized in between appointments).

### 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 will support on-going operations at the Senior Center. This includes expenses related to the continued coordination/distribution of “take-home” meals to nutritionally at-risk and low-income seniors; Information and Referral Resource support; technology support; outdoor exercise program (as the weather permits); and communications with participants.

The last few months have been challenging for the Senior Center. Our organization quickly shifted our operations (to take-home meals, support via telephone/email, outdoor exercise programs) to ensure that the needs of our

participants were met. Funding for our organization will help us respond to the basic needs of vulnerable seniors in our community and successfully deal with the ever-changing demands placed upon us as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

It is important to fund our organization because the greatest risk for severe illness from COVID-19 is for individuals age 85 or older and many seniors are experiencing anxiety, and fear illness or even death. This has greatly changed their daily routines, the care and support they receive and their ability to stay socially connected. The Oxford Area Senior Center is committed to helping our seniors through this uncertain 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?**

The OASC respectfully requests \$15,000, which is less than 5% of our annual operating budget. At this time, it is difficult to project the deficit amount due to the uncertainty as to when we will be allowed to reopen and resume regular activities. Not only have we foregone fundraising events since March, we have also been notified by past supporters that unfortunately their grant cycles have been put on hold until further notice. Funds received from the Chester County Nonprofit Innovation & Resiliency Fund will be used during our current fiscal year.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

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

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