

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 ###





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

Contact Information

Nonprofit Org Name: Oxford Educational Foundation	ED/CEO Name: Dr. Raymond A. Fischer
Address: PO Box 142	ED/CEO E-mail: rfischer@oxfordeducationalfoundation.org
City, State Zip: Oxford, PA 19363	Board Chair Name: Steve Roberts
Phone: (610) 932-7200	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Dr. Raymond A. Fischer
Website: www.oxfordeducationalfoundation.org	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: same as above
EIN: 23-2774066	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$7,300
Year Founded: 1994	

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: Dr. Raymond A. Fischer	Date: 10/25/2020
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Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment & Animal Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/>

Figures	Current	PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)
Annual Operating Budget	\$97,478	\$155,996
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	# 2 P/T	#2 P/T
# Board Volunteers	#15	#15
# Committee Volunteers	#15	#15
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	# 77	# 127
Annual Volunteer Hours	# 1774	# 3768

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.

N	ChesCo Comm Fdn	N	Brandywine Health Fdtn	N	United Way ChesCo	N	ChesCo Dept Comm Devel
N	ChesCo Fund/W&Girls	N	Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn	Y	United Way Southern ChesCo	N	ChesCo Dept Health
	Other significant funders:					N	ChesCo Dept Human Svcs

No	Yes	Federal Single Audit
X		<i>Is your nonprofit subject to a federal single audit (formerly known as the OMB Circular A-133 audit)?</i>
		<i>If yes, did your nonprofit's most recent federal single audit disclose any issues?</i>
		<i>If yes, have these issues been adequately addressed?</i>

Narrative: In a few concise paragraphs, please explain:

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

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The mission of the Oxford Educational Foundation is to enhance the quality of education in the Oxford Area School District by providing a mentoring and tutoring program for the students and professional grants for the faculty that encourage the development of innovative programs.

The Oxford Educational Foundation serves the community of Oxford in Chester County, specifically the students and staff in the Oxford Area School District. The populations served are students in kindergarten through grade twelve. We have been impacted with COVID as schools have transitioned to virtual/blended learning.

As a new school year was ready to begin and our world adapted to a new normal, the OEF was preparing for some of our own challenges as we anticipated returning to our capacity of volunteering within the Oxford Area School District.

Despite the sudden movement to online learning in late March our OEF volunteers still worked to contribute to our mentoring and tutoring program. Their support was unwavering. The OEF Mentors, Tutors and Classroom Volunteers committee met numerous times discussing plans on what the OEF Volunteer program will look like when school reopens. The plan addresses three key areas: Role of the Mentor, Tutor and Classroom Volunteer, Training and Communication. Our plan was created on the belief that according to the District's Health and Safety Plan volunteers would not be permitted entry into school buildings until they give the OEF the green light.

Training was a key area for our volunteers. Training sessions led by our Volunteer Coordinator were scheduled for classroom volunteers, tutors, and mentors specific on virtual platforms used by the OASD. Zoom being the leader in video communications platforms currently is being utilized with our tutors and mentors and our classroom volunteers are utilizing the district platform call Microsoft Teams.

The purpose of the trainings was to discuss how classroom volunteers, tutors, and mentors can still be viable in the OASD with the hope that they will be less intimidated by a virtual platform(s) and agree to continue to volunteer.

One on one is now the mode of training for volunteers as the OEF continues to receive requests for mentoring and tutoring. Recently, twenty Oxford Area High School students in the National Honor Society were trained to do virtual peer tutoring.

The funding would be utilized to fund the Volunteer Coordinator. This position is instrumental in the recruitment, training, placement and retention of our volunteers. There has been additional contacts with volunteers with a higher degree of handholding specifically in delivering tutoring or mentoring over a virtual platform. There is documented research that students may have regressed in some basic concepts and skills. We feel strongly that we can assist in filling those gaps. The funding will assist the OEF in keeping its mission especially at a time when their still remains economic instability as we are realizing donations being lower in comparison to recent years. This funding would be a great help for the OEF but specifically to the students that it serves.

The OEF is seeking \$7,300. These funds would be the salary and payroll expenses for the Volunteer Coordinator for January 1, 2021 to June 15, 2021. Because of the economic instability a 6 month (July 1st to December 31st) budget was developed. We will review our budget revenues and expenses as we get closer to the end of December. The Volunteer Coordinator is crucial to keep the momentum going in serving the students and staff with tutoring, mentoring and classroom volunteer needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for this grant!