



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. 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 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 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 ###





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

Contact Information

| | |
|---|--|
| Nonprofit Org Name: Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS) | ED/CEO Name: Mary Fuller |
| Address: 257 Church Street | ED/CEO E-mail: mary.fuller@pacsphx.org |
| City, State Zip: Phoenixville, PA 19460 | Board Chair Name: Frederick Hubler, Jr. |
| Phone: 610-933-1105 | Grant Proposal Contact Name: Julie Mokrzycki |
| Website: www.pacsphx.org | Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: pacs.grants@pacsphx.org |
| EIN: 23-1902190 | Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$45,964 |
| Year Founded: 1972 | |

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: Julie Mokrzycki | Date: 10/22/2020 |
|----------------------------|------------------|

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Services |

| Figures | Current | PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20) |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Annual Operating Budget | \$935,000 | \$930,300 |
| Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff | 4 | 3 |
| # Board Volunteers | 12 | 13 |
| # Committee Volunteers | 20 | 17 |
| # Active Direct Service Volunteers | 26 | 24 |
| Annual Volunteer Hours | 1900 | 1500 |

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 type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Dept Comm Devel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Fund/W&Girls | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn | <input type="checkbox"/> United Way S ChesCo | <input type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Dept Health |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other significant funders: Pennsylvania DEP, Globus Medical, Pierce Foundation | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Dept Human Svcs |

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?**

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?

Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS) aspires to be the lead resource for food insecurity in the community. Our service area includes Phoenixville Borough, Schuylkill Township, East Pikeland Township, West Pikeland Township, Mont Clare, and Oaks. PACS is located in Chester County, one of the wealthiest counties in Pennsylvania, but 9% of Phoenixville residents live in poverty and 38% are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) - community members who work but still struggle to survive.

Our service numbers have greatly increased with five times the number of requests in the last year. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been spending \$10,000 every month on food (compared to \$2,700 in a typical month) to supplement our county-provided and donated items. PACS has modified pantry processes to provide a safe environment for our staff, volunteers, and clients, allowing us to remain open while meeting the increased need. The building is professionally sanitized on a regular basis, and PPE was purchased for staff and volunteers. We have successfully implemented calls to our food appointment clients to obtain their grocery lists of needed items, delivery for our at-risk clients, and safe donation drop-offs for the community.

This funding would be used to purchase an online food ordering system (SmartChoice™ Food Pantry Software), which will enable our clients to order the items they need. Clients will have greater control over when and how they request food, whether at the pantry or to be delivered to their homes. Food waste will be reduced, as clients will only receive what they request. Additionally, this software will allow staff to easily track pantry inventory, which will help us know what items we need to stock and/or excess items we can share with other agencies.

This food pantry software demonstrates innovation and resiliency in dealing with COVID-19 impacts by modifying our current system into one that no longer requires in-person ordering and pick-up. The community impact of this anticipated funding will be that the pantry experience becomes more accessible to a greater number of clients; for example, older and/or disabled clients who require delivery, non-English-speaking clients (multiple languages are available with the software), and clients with dietary restrictions and/or allergies (the software allows sorting by these classifications). PACS strives to serve clients with dignity and respect, and the SmartChoice™ system will help accomplish this goal; it is important to fund this now because it would result in even safer pantry operations, increased efficiency, and improved client privacy.

We are requesting a grant of \$45,964 to cover three years of the software plus the development cost. The requested funding is five percent of our annual operating budget of \$935,000, and this year's projected deficit will be due to the significant capital purchase of our new building. It would be ideal to get the software up and running at our new location, which will open on October 26, 2020.

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