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

**Contact Information**

Nonprofit Org Name: Parkesburg POINT	ED/CEO Name: Dwayne Walton
Address: 700 Main Street, PO BOX 731	ED/CEO E-mail: Dwayne@parkesburgpoint.com
City, State Zip: Parkesburg, PA 19365	Board Chair Name: Larry Beaver
Phone: 610-857-3393	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Sarah Daniels
Website: www. Parkesburgpoint.com	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: sdaniels@parkesburgpoint.com
EIN: 03-0399261	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$10,000
Year Founded: 2003	

*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: Dwayne Walton	Date: 10/19/20
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**Nonprofit Field/s of Interest**

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

Figures	Current	PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)
Annual Operating Budget	\$950,000	\$950,000
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	10	8
# Board Volunteers	15	15
# Committee Volunteers	20	20
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	19	274
Annual Volunteer Hours	Under 1,000	Over 7,000

**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.

ChesCo Comm Fdn X	Brandywine Health Fdtn. X	United Way ChesCo. X	ChesCo Dept Comm Devel.
ChesCo Fund/W&Girls X	Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn	United Way S ChesCo	ChesCo Dept Health
Other significant funders: W.W. Smith Charitable Foundation and Nelson Foundation			ChesCo Dept Human Svcs. X

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

- 1. Mission:** The Parkesburg POINT's (The POINT) mission is to empower youth and families to live victoriously by offering a safe, engaging and spirit-filled environment.
- 2. What geographic area is served?** The POINT serves the Greater Parkesburg and Coatesville Communities. Approximately 80% of students come from the Octorara School District and 20% travel from Coatesville Area School District.
- 3. What population is served? How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID?**  
POINT students predominantly come from single-parent households, 90% of whom fall below the poverty level for Chester County and most have experienced traumas such as homelessness, transient housing conditions, mental,

sexual or physical abuse, hunger, and/or parents addicted to drugs/alcohol. Consequently, students who come to The POINT are at risk for school drop-out, teen pregnancy, physical and mental health challenges, juvenile delinquency and experimentation with drugs or alcohol.

The impact of COVID-19 has been detrimental for our students. For most POINT students, home is not where they feel safe, it is not where hunger is fed, and it is not where they receive love and support. Over the past 7 months, The POINT has experienced an increase in demand for services.

The POINT's service numbers have shifted greatly throughout each phase of COVID-19. Prior to COVID-19, The POINT averaged 50-80 students daily. During the initial closure in March, The POINT supported approximately 30 students virtually via zoom Bible studies and tutoring sessions. We also shifted to being a pick-up site for 700 youth ages 0-18 to pick up free breakfast/lunch from the Octorara School District. During this time, The POINT also delivered approximately 80-120 breakfasts/lunches daily to families in the community that were unable to pick them up.

At the conclusion of the school year, the district discontinued breakfast and lunch for the summer, so The POINT again shifted and began serving 75 families (373 individuals) via weekly food delivery and pop-up programming. And finally, when The POINT re-opened for in-person virtual learning support in September, 35 students were served daily. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, The POINT will transition again to our traditional after school and evening programs, serving 35 students daily and up to 140 weekly.

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

The POINT has always been focused on addressing food insecurity in our community, but during COVID-19, our strategies to address food insecurity have looked very different. Following school closures in March, The POINT partnered with The Octorara School District and served as the daily pick-up site for youth ages 0-18 to come and pick up breakfast and lunch. Unfortunately, these meals were discontinued at the conclusion of the school year. During this time, The POINT also coordinated donations and partnered with The Chester County Food Bank and The YMCA to deliver food to families each week – specifically targeting families in several remote mobile home communities. Each week, The POINT delivered over 500 meals to families in need. When Pennsylvania transitioned to the Green Phase, we revised our strategy to increase support for families beyond food with “pop-up programming”. Each week The POINT coordinated the purchases and packing of food bags for 75 families (feeding 373 individuals). The food was delivered to The POINT on Mondays and POINT staff and volunteers packed the bags on Tuesdays and went out together on Wednesdays to 5 different impoverished communities to deliver the food, facilitate games/activities with the students, and inquire about needs and pray with the parents.

Additionally, The POINT provided (and continues to provide) crisis support as needed to help families pay for rent, utilities, groceries or other critical items.

Since March 2020, The POINT has remained flexible and innovative, continuously adapting our service model to ensure the needs of our students and community are met. On September 8, 2020 we re-opened to students by adapting our traditional after school and evening programs to instead be offered during the school day (7:30AM-3:30PM). We made this adjustment to better support our students academically as they continued virtual learning. We increased the speed of our WIFI, hired more part-time staff/interns and started what we call, "Access POINT" for students to complete their school work while also having access to recreation, meals, emotional support, Bible Studies and enrichment activities.

The POINT is again adapting on October 26<sup>th</sup> when the school district returns to in-person learning. At this time, we will resume our traditional After School Program from 3-6PM, M-W and 3-7PM on Thursday. This will be a condensed version of our traditional 4-8PM Program. Registration is required and attendance will be capped at 35 students daily. The POINT has put numerous health and safety procedures into place including plastic shields at our front desk, masks for all staff, students and volunteers, more frequent and expansive cleanings, temperature checks, etc. We will expand our service hours and enrollment as our volunteer support rises and the CDC says it is safe to do so.

Additionally, on October 10, 2020, The POINT launched our first ever POINT App. This is an innovative approach to connecting with students outside of our building and programs.

**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 Use*

A grant of \$10,000 from the Innovation & Resiliency Fund would help fund The POINT’s new and increased expenses as outlined below. These expenses include expenses for upgraded WIFI to better support our student’s virtual learning, hiring additional staff/interns so we can work in smaller groups with students, increasing facility cleaning coverage and frequency, adding transportation to target remote and unreached mobile home communities, ongoing developments for The POINT App and continued investments to ensure our students and their families do not go hungry. Each of these expenses are critical components to ensuring The POINT can safely and effectively provide in-person programming for students over the next 6 months.

	Projected Revenue
Foundations	\$45,000
Business	\$5,000
Individuals	\$6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,000</b>
<i>Youth Program COVID Expenses</i>	
	Projected Expenses
WIFI Increase (\$400 x 6months)	\$2,400
10 Part-Time Staff	\$24,000
Transportation	\$600
POINT App	\$750
<i>Facility Cleaning</i>	\$19,500
<i>Food Insecurity Expenses</i>	
Kitchen Staff/Snacks/Meals/Grocery Gift Cards	\$8,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,750</b>

*Innovation & Resiliency*

The past 7 months have been guided by flexibility and innovation as The POINT continuously adapted our service model and shifted resources to ensure the community’s needs were met and our mission continued to move forward. The past 7 months have required extensive brainstorming, planning, and fundraising efforts from our staff. Our program staff and interns have transitioned without hesitation to being food packers, delivery personnel and most recently educators. Through each of these transitions, POINT staff and volunteers have risen to the occasion, but we are eager to return to the model we know and do best. Our students are suffering emotionally and mentally. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, we will slowly be returning to normal with the return of our after school and evening programs. Despite serving less students daily, the costs will be higher as our new small group focus requires increased expenses and more expansive use of our facility. In the past, The POINT has heavily relied on volunteers, but due to limited capacity and safety regulations, we must rely more heavily on staff right now.

And finally, The POINT’s new App is an innovative approach to connecting with students outside of our building and programs. We know that when students are not at The POINT, they are spending extensive amounts of isolated time on their mobile devices. Currently, many of our students spend their entire day without ever leaving their bedroom. The new POINT App enables POINT staff to send notifications, engage with students, stream Bible Studies and enrichment resources etc. With enrollment currently capped at 35 students daily, this increases our ability to continue impacting the additional 30+ students who if not for COVID, would also be at The POINT. It is also an innovative approach to better connecting with parents during this heightened season of need. Parent’s phone numbers are constantly changing, but the App can transfer with them from number to number. A generous grant of \$10,000 from Iron Mountain, LLC funded the development and launch of the App in August 2020. Additional funding is needed for ongoing changes and upgrades to the App.

*Impact*

Funding from the Innovation and Resiliency Fund will ensure 140 at-risk youth ages 8-18 have access to the support and resources needed to thrive physically, academically, emotionally and Spiritually. We anticipate the following outcomes:

- Students will experience reduced hunger
- Students will report feeling safe and supported at The POINT.
- Students will indicate resistance to risky behaviors including gangs, sex, drugs, and alcohol.
- Students will not skip or drop out of school.
- Students will pursue goals for post-secondary education and/or employment.
- Students will improve literacy.
- Students will increase grades and/or maintain positive grades.
- Students will report an increase in self-esteem and confidence.

*Why Now?*

This past week a grandmother contacted The POINT in tears. She was upset because she could not understand how to get her granddaughter connected to virtual learning and likewise, the granddaughter was in tears because she was feeling the weight of her grandmother being in poor health and the anxiety of missing school. The POINT has witnessed many tears over the past 7 months – cries for help, cries of fear and cries of discouragement. We slowly began reopening our doors in September and the academic, emotional and mental impacts of COVID-19 are visible with every child. The POINT believes it is critical to get students back in the building to ensure they are fed, surrounded by positive adult role models, socially engaged and supported academically, emotionally and spiritually. However, we are increasingly reliant on our community’s generosity to ensure we can continue meeting the fast-changing needs of our community. There is still much uncertainty for the months ahead. The POINT will continue to adapt our service hours and program structure to best compliment the school district's schedule and community's needs.

**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 POINT respectfully requests \$10,000 to help fund our COVID-19 Phase 3 Project Budget. This request is 1% of the organization’s overall operating budget of \$950,000. The POINT is not currently projecting a deficit and working hard to further diversify funding streams to ensure a balanced budget at year’s end. The Board has not approved a new organizational budget but has approved shifting our spending categories to meet the immediate needs of our community. Where we have saved in some areas we have exponentially increased in others. Financially we have lost revenue from our cancelled Spring Event and several foundations that have cancelled or shifted funding priorities due to COVID-19. We have been working hard to make up these losses from other funding sources. Funding from CCCF is needed for new and increased expenses listed above and will be fully expended within 6 months.

*Cut and paste this link into your browser to view The POINT’s innovative programming from Summer 2020:*  
<http://bit.ly/POINT-COVID-RESPONSE>

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 (i.e.: COVID best practice research findings, consultant proposal/s, bids for COVID-related materials & equipment, etc.)