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
Contact Information

Nonprofit Org Name: The Sparrow Fund
ED/CEO Name: Kelly Raudenbush
Address: 124 3rd Avenue
City, State Zip: Phoenixville, PA 19460
Phone: N/A
Website: http://sparrowfund.org/
ED/CEO E-mail: kellyraudenbush@sparrowfund.org
Board Chair Name: Mark Raudenbush
Grant Proposal Contact Name: Abbey Leaman
Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: abbeyleaman@sparrowfund.org
Year Founded: 2011

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: Abigail Leaman
Date: 10/13/2020

Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

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

Figures

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Operating Budget</td>
<td>$86,925</td>
<td>$151,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Board Volunteers</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Committee Volunteers</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td># Active Direct Service Volunteers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>736-1,216</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 | United Way ChesCo | ChesCo Dept Comm Devel |
| ChesCo Fund/W&Girls | Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn | United Way S ChesCo | ChesCo Dept Health |
| Other significant funders: Pilgrim Foundation | | | ChesCo Dept Human Svcs |

Narrative: In a few concise paragraphs, please explain:

1. **Mission**

   The Sparrow Fund’s mission is caring for caregivers, serving families in foster care and adoption as well as those who care for vulnerable children through individualized support, education, and specialized programs to encourage connection within families and to a larger community.

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

   We serve families in Chester County, specifically in and around Phoenixville. We also serve families nationwide through our grant program and training events. Historically, about half of the families we serve have been local, though we anticipate that number to grow as families seek out more local resources in light of COVID-19 limitations.
3. **What population is served? How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID?**

We serve the diverse community of foster and adopted children and families as well as those who care for vulnerable children. We currently have 40 families (177 children and adults) in our Sparrow Services and Sparrow Counseling programs. We have approximately 130 other family units who access our regular training events in a typical year. Over the next 6 months, we anticipate those numbers to grow to at least 50 families and over 220 total people served by our Sparrow Services and Sparrow Counseling programs (an increase of 25%). We are hesitant to estimate the number of family units we will directly serve through training and other related events through 2020 in light of the limitations of COVID-19. As we plan strategically to meet the needs of families impacted by COVID, we are focusing more on depth of care rather than spreading out our care.

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

With histories of ACES, trauma, and secondary trauma, the families we serve were already vulnerable prior to COVID-19. With COVID-19, those children and their grownups have been made even more fragile. In light of that, our mission remains and our efforts to care for them through individualized support and virtual trainings have increased. Sparrow Services Grant families’ adoptions have largely been put on hold, intensifying their personal needs and straining our resources as families remain in the program longer than we expected as it takes longer to complete adoptions. Despite the strain on our resources, we are committed to our strategic plan, which included accepting six new families into our grant program in early October.

The counseling process for vulnerable families was interrupted for months and may continue to have interruptions as the COVID-19 crisis continues. We have been offering telehealth support to meet needs due to present stress, and we’ve reopened our office to counseling families with safety precautions in place as they are comfortable. Our certified service/facility dog, Louie, was furloughed for several months until the office reopened though we implemented creative ways to involve him still as we set out to encourage, enrich, and empower relationships for the children and families we serve (e.g., postcards from Louie to families, a virtual birthday party for Louie in July, social media engagement where Louie “speaks” to children and families, etc.). Along with so many other community helpers, we have had to consider new ways to meet the increasing needs, an effort we consider our responsibility and privilege. In the summer, we facilitated a 5-week class via Zoom that we offered for the first time to foster and adoptive parents to learn trust-based relational parenting, a research-based model of caregiving to provide effective support for at-risk children. This month, we are offering two more virtual training opportunities for our families. We take very seriously the task we have to encourage, equip, and empower vulnerable parents of vulnerable children in every season but especially now.

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?**

Innovation is finding something new inside something known. What we know is that we learn who we are and how the world works through our experience of relationships. That has been the foundation of all we do—Sparrow Services for families, Sparrow Counseling and Project Puppy Love, our Together Called marriage retreats, and trainings for caregivers both in our neighborhood and on the other side of the world. That foundation has become even stronger as we have faced COVID with the families we serve. We have had to innovate in how we carry out our mission to allow us to provide genuine depth of service to the people we serve. This funding will allow us to sustain that innovation so that we can provide more service hours to more children and families and more tangible resources to those children and families, fostering not only our organizational resilience but the resilience of the children and families for which we care.
6. **How much funding is sought? How does this compare to your annual operating budget and this year’s projected deficit? What is the expected timeframe for use of funds?**

We are concerned about ongoing funding. Our 2020 budget, unadjusted for COVID, would have yielded an estimated surplus of $575. But, with an increase in services provided to families during this crisis, a near shutdown of our one income-producing program during PA’s red phase, a decrease in corporate donations due to the financial crisis, and many grant programs delaying their application processes and awards, we are preparing for a deficit of approximately $8,000 that will impact the long-term sustainability of our programs.

If awarded this grant, $4,000 would meet our anticipated increased staffing costs as we increase direct services to vulnerable families. The remaining $4,000 would fund innovative program redesign including subsidizing family counseling services for families who demonstrate financial need; pop-up virtual trainings; and the purchase and distribution of tangible resources to encourage, equip, and empower caregivers in vulnerable families.

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

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- **This Innovation & Resiliency Fund Grant Request** cover sheet & brief narrative
- **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.)

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- 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
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West Chester, PA 19382
www.chescocf.org
grants@chescocf.org 610.696.8211