

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: Arts Holding Hands and Hearts Inc.	ED/CEO Name: Jan Michener
Address: 805 Nathan Hale Dr	ED/CEO E-mail: Jan@artsholdinghandsandhearts.org
City, State Zip: West Chester PA 19382	Board Chair Name: Richard Dowgun
Phone: 484-883-2367	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Jan Michener
Website: www.AHHAH.org	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: jan@artsholdinghandsandhearts.org
EIN: 462698782	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$20,000
Year Founded: 2013	

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: Jan Michener	Date: 10/29/20
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Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

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

Figures	Current	PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)
Annual Operating Budget	37,725	\$ 88,175
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	#2	# 2
# Board Volunteers	#8	# 8
# Committee Volunteers	#4	# 4
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	#5	# 25
Annual Volunteer Hours	500	# 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.

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: PA Partners in The Arts, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pia Foundation, David and Jennifer Hall Trust			ChesCo Dept Human Svcs

Narrative: In a few concise paragraphs, please explain:

- Mission:** AHHAH's mission is to empower children, strengthen families and mobilize communities through arts, literacy and mindfulness for social and racial equity and justice.
- What geographic area is served?** (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served) We serve southern Chester County, specifically, Coatesville, West Chester, Downingtown, Kennett Square and the surrounding communities and the Chester County Youth Center in Pocopson

3. **What population is served? How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID?** Before Covid we brought weekly arts, literacy and mindfulness classes to approx. 400 pre-k children attending Head Start classes in Chester County, Story Time Yoga to children at Tick Tock and Chester County Family Academy and weekly Expressive Arts, Trauma Sensitive Yoga and Mindfulness Classes and Cooking classes to court adjudicated youth in the Chester County Youth Center. Plus, AHHAH spearheaded the PULL (Pop Up Lending Library) Campaign which provided children access to free books throughout southern Chester County via our Pop-Up Lending Libraries. All of our in- person classes were shut down March 13 and the PULL Stations were closed but reopened in July. All of our in- person fee for service programs were cancelled.
4. **What has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?** Head Start has not been conducting any on-site programs, and we do not anticipate being able to resume our classes there until Fall 2021. Further, we were in the second year of a multi-year research program at Head Start (in collaboration with West Chester University) and the suspension of classes has dealt a serious blow to our data-collection efforts. We offered free zoom Story Time Yoga and Dance with Me sessions for children during the month of July and facilitated a 2 -hour Trauma Sensitive Mindfulness & Resilience training for 47 Head Start teachers in October.

Chester County Youth Center closed for all unessential staff on March 13. October 2020, we began virtual weekly Trauma sensitive mindfulness and writing classes with youth in detention. CCYC numbers are low and classes are cancelled when youth go into quarantine. A new AHHAH cooking and entrepreneurial program (Cultivating Change) at CCYC was scheduled to start Fall 2020 has been suspended until post-pandemic.

Our Pop-Up Lending Libraries were taken out of service at the beginning of the pandemic but were restocked and made available on the same schedule as public libraries in Chester County.

Financially the reduction to our Head Start and CCYC programs will mean the loss of at least 60% of our program service revenue, or up to 88% if we cannot resume live CCYC classes and programs during this academic year. These losses may be somewhat offset by revenue from new services we are offering – online Trauma Sensitive Mindfulness Wellness and Resilience Trainings for teachers and organizations who work with youth and families impacted by trauma and our Social and Racial Justice workshops for schools and other organizations. We feel these trainings are vital right now and want to offer some of these new services either free or at below cost rates. With respect to grant-funding the picture is unclear – at least one foundation which funded us last fiscal year has told us they are concentrating all their funding on food insecurity in light of the pandemic.

Our response to Covid has included the following:

- a. **Developing on-line Trauma Sensitive Mindfulness and Expressive Arts Programs for youth.** As stated above this has been successfully implemented at the Chester County Youth Center -- albeit on a small scale because the population of the CCYC is intentionally kept to the lowest possible level. We have also developed on-line Story Time Yoga and Mindfulness sessions suitable for Head Start and K-5 children but are challenged to reach our intended audience because Head Start classes are currently limited to 30 minutes of virtual instruction a day and many families and children are “zoomed” out trying to keep up

with their mandatory virtual classes. Head Start is scheduled to open a Hybrid schedule in November but will again only allow essential teachers and staff in the building and will not be bringing in outside “special” classes. To reach more youth impacted by trauma and chronic stress in 6-12 grades, AHHAH is reaching out to other organizations to partner and collaborate with including Chester County Futures, Coatesville Youth Initiative, Bridge Academy, Coatesville Kids to College, and El Futuro/Mighty Writers of Kennett Square.

- b. **Working with educators and caregivers.** In addition to reaching children on-line we have developed and begun to deliver new on-line workshops on the principles of mindfulness based stress reduction, trauma-sensitivity, social emotional learning, and social and racial equity for educators and other adults who work or have contact with our target population. The intent is that the teachers, and other caregivers, will benefit from these classes, and that they will also incorporate what they learn into their teaching practice (both on-line and eventually in-person). Since August we have provided workshops to Chester County Intermediate Unit (Head Start), Chester County Youth Center, Chester County Department of Health, Chester County Crime Victims Center, The Equity Firm, and Exton Regional Chamber of Commerce.

We are also offering these classes to other organizations, and the concept is being very well-received. We are currently in discussion about providing workshops to the following organizations: Coatesville Community Health Center (GrandFamilies Initiative), Chester County Family Academy, and Keystone First. AHHAH offers these programs at steeply discounted rates, or at no charge to organizations that cannot afford them.

- c. **Seeking partnerships.** We are actively reaching out to other organizations that serve disadvantaged children in southern Chester County, to explore whether i) our traditional programming can work safely and effectively in their venue, ii) we can jointly develop new forms of programming which will serve both our missions, and iii) whether there are ways we can support their mission to benefit this population. For example, we have formed a partnership with Chester County Futures to deliver both a professional development program to their counsellors/mentors, and two on-line after-school programs to the children they serve. We have also partnered with Revival Productions (theater company) in Coatesville and El Futuro/Mighty Writers in Kennett Square to engage children from their programs in our Pop-Up Lending Library literacy program.
- d. **Continuing to expand our PULL program** – We are partnering with numerous interested parties including Oxford Rotary and Oxford Art Alliance to plan for the expansion of our Pop-Up Lending Library program to Oxford PA. We have partnered with Habitat for Humanity who built additional PULL Stations in Coatesville. We have partnered with Revival Productions to use space in their building for a new PULL Donation Station (the facility where donated books are received, sorted and processed for distribution to the Pop-Up Lending Libraries). We work with C.C.I.U. Discover Program with the PULL Campaign both in Kennett and in Coatesville.

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?

The funding would be used to offset the loss of 60-88% of our program-service revenue as described above and the development and delivery of our on-line programs and trainings. While we are unable to offer our traditional programs at Head Start and CCYC we are developing and implementing new programs online, but the costs of these new programs are not being reimbursed by traditional sources. Although we do not have Full Time Staff, (our teachers are all independent contractors) we have continued to pay AHHAH's Director of Yoga and Mindfulness, Amanda Daley, who is an independent contractor, what she was earning teaching for AHHAH Full Time before Covid. Amanda has been working with the AHHAH's Executive Director, in the development and implementation of all AHHAH online programs for children and adults. They are also working on the completion of a Trauma Sensitive Mindfulness and Expressive Arts training manual for teachers to Build Trauma Sensitive and Equitable Classrooms. This was part of the work they were doing with WCU Research program before the study was halted in March due to Covid. Jan and Amanda are also writing a "Collection of Children's Yoga Stories" that will be an addendum to the teacher manual for the Trauma Sensitive Mindfulness and Expressive Arts training that AHHAH would like to provide as part of summer Professional Development programs for teachers. The children's story collection will be published and sold on Amazon as well as a new revenue source.

Our new programs and trainings for teachers are generating some revenue, but we want to be able to offer them to organizations that cannot pay all or any of our fees. The potential community impact of these programs is evidenced by the feedback from the participants who have taken the trainings. It is important to fund this now because the principles and skills we teach are especially relevant to teachers in a time of heightened stress, trauma, and uncertainty. Research suggests that teachers' well-being and their social and emotional competencies are associated with their ability to promote students' social and emotional and academic learning. Our trainings provide strategies, tools, and direct practice for teachers to enhance their own SEL skills of self-awareness, self-regulation, building healthy relationships and creating safe and equitable environments for all children to thrive and learn. Our programs and trainings are based on AHHAH's commitment to social and racial equity and justice.

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 loss of program service revenue from Head Start and CCYC is estimated to be between \$16,750 and \$22,950. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 we had total of expenses of \$64,327. Budgeting is obviously difficult in the current situation with so many unknowns, but based on our best estimate, we currently expect our net income to be reduced by \$36,056 between FY 2020 and FY 2021.

We are seeking \$20,000. It costs AHHAH approx. \$400 to prepare and deliver each of our new educator workshops. We would like to be able to provide 2 free workshops each month for the next 8 months (thru the end of this school year), at a total cost of \$6400. In addition, we plan to spend \$4000 to develop and deliver on-line content to the different groups of children and youth identified to us by Chester County Futures, Coatesville Youth Initiative, and Coatesville Kids to College.

The completion of the Trauma Sensitive Mindfulness and Expressive Arts Teaching Manual and Curriculum and the publishing costs associated with publishing a children's book is approximately \$10,000.

These funds will be used for the remainder of AHHAH's 2020-2021 fiscal year which ends June 31.

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