

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 ###





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

Contact Information

Nonprofit Org Name: Alianzas de Phoenixville	ED/CEO Name: Nina M. Guzman
Address: 148 Church St.	ED/CEO E-mail: nina@alianzasdephoenixville.org
City, State Zip: Phoenixville PA 19460	Board Chair Name: Tracy Patches
Phone: 610.933.9200	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Nina M. Guzman
Website: www.alianzasdephoenixville.org	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: nina@alianzasdephoenixville.org
EIN: 47-4293491	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$50,000
Year Founded: 2010	

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: Nina M. Guzman	Date: 11/4/2020
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Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

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

Figures	Current	PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)
Annual Operating Budget	\$87,380	\$78,440
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	1	# 1
# Board Volunteers	10	# 10
# Committee Volunteers	2	# 11
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	15	# 43
Annual Volunteer Hours	1,250	# 2,140

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.

X	ChesCo Comm Fdn		Brandywine Health Fdtn	X	United Way ChesCo	ChesCo Dept Comm Devel
X	ChesCo Fund/W&Girls	X	Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn		United Way S ChesCo	ChesCo Dept Health
	Other significant funders: Globus Medical, Philadelphia Fnd					ChesCo Dept Human Svcs

Narrative: In a few concise paragraphs, please explain:

- Mission** - Alianzas strives for equity and the dignity of diverse Communities regardless of their country of origin by providing services to the under resourced and by promoting intercultural exchanges to connect all individuals in the broader community.

We honor diverse cultures, histories, languages & traditions by practicing cultural humility and envision Alianzas as a Welcoming House for diverse populations that experience a disconnect from the vibrancy of their community. Our programs and services aim to connect individuals and families to the resources that strengthen their ability to live and work in our area within their full rights & dignity. The diversity of our staff, volunteers and Board has positioned us to carry out this mission.

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

Alianzas serves the Phoenixville Borough and surrounding communities in Malvern, Frazer, Norristown, Spring City, Royersford, King of Prussia and Pottstown

3. What population is served? How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID?

The Latino Immigrant population (Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras + many more Latin American Countries) is the primary group receiving our services. As our area continues to grow in diversity, we have expanded services to welcome other immigrants in need such as folks from Liberia, Egypt, Albania, Tunisia and Korea therefore we serve Latino Americans & approx. 18 additional countries. Immediately, after COVID struck, Emergency Food & Essentials became the priority. That meant that the many additional issues folks visited us for and program visits took a back seat; our numbers decreased but our Food Program numbers went from approximately 50 participants to our current 168 households. For 2 months now, we are slowly including other services and programs and are experiencing an uptick in general service numbers

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

Many in our community are vulnerable and yet, because of their immigrant status, many of our clients are experiencing an added layer of risk due to great challenges under COVID-19 as most are not be eligible for any direct Emergency Relief Assistance or program benefits from the federal government.

The majority of clients we serve were immediately unemployed since many work in the restaurant, housekeeping and construction industries. Due to this economic destabilization, Alianzas' main priority became helping clients meet their essential needs such as food, toiletries, diapers, baby formula, clothing, and rental assistance, which is crucial to controlling homelessness and its complex issues. Since day one of COVID, we were agile and with great urgency refocused to meet the dramatically increased and unexpected needs. Alianzas leveraged our partnerships with community members/community food drives, the Chester County Food Bank, and Borough Team partnerships to expand our Food Program. We recruited and shifted volunteers as necessary for safe and distanced distribution of essentials. We were forced to take up the use of our limited office space for the processing and distribution of food. We secured additional grant funding for our Rent Assistance Program, but the needs among clients has continued to outpace our funding and has quickly depleted our resources.

Our organization is part of the Phoenixville Borough's Emergency Response Team where collaborations are key to ensuring no one is left out of essential needs during this pandemic; that includes the diverse immigrant communities we serve. <https://www.inthistogetherpxv.com/>

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 COVID-19 crisis is an evolving situation; however, Alianzas has not skipped a beat in providing critical services to our community. With case numbers again rising in Chester County, our clients' needs for food, toiletries, clothing, and rental assistance is are likely to increase. In addition, it is important for us to resume all services and programs. Hiring a part time assistant to the ED, given the expansion of our Food and Rent Assistance Programs, will help in serving the greater number of clients in other programs (see attached description) as we did prior to COVID-19. additional funding will enable us to make infrastructure changes and improvements to meet public health and safety measures and will give us more options to continue serving clients in the longer term. Currently, we are not able to safely allow the public into our office. In addition, Alianzas' technology needs have increased as a result of shifting much in-person client counseling to phone calls and texts. Alianzas' ED has innovatively used Zoom and Facebook live for weekly updates to the community, Board meetings, and events, even engaging technical assistance from an intern. However, she has been using her personal cell phone and would need another laptop for in-office use by a part-time assistant and volunteers (detailed budget attached).

We have begun to build on our resiliency; OPERATIONAL RESERVE. With your help, Alianzas will continue to build on this despite the looming threat of the economic fallout due to COVID

Alianzas is the trusted partner, protector and liaison of the immigrant communities in the Phoenixville area. Any threat to Alianzas is a threat to the well-being of our immigrant neighbors who depend upon us for their basic needs

and for help in navigating the many new and complex systems in their new home. In addition, Alianzas serves scores of agencies, institutions, and other nonprofit organizations in helping to connect and mediate with our diverse populations.

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?

Our funding request is for \$50,000 to be allocated over the next 12 months and addressing several areas of need; safe opening projects, part time hire (general operating) and direct relief: longer term food & rental assistance. Please see Resiliency Budget attached.

We have also lost projected income from our Annual Feria (Festival) fundraisers, which was held virtually and did raise \$3,000; however, in comparison, we raised \$8,000 at 2019's Feria. We have also lost client-supported income from our office donations and Mariposas Program, which raises money with projects ladies create as a fundraiser and other local efforts.

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