

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 ###





28 W. Market Street, Lincoln Biography Building  
West Chester, PA 19382  
610.696.8211 www.chescocf.org



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

**Contact Information**

Nonprofit Org Name: Avon Grove Education Foundation	ED/CEO Name: n/a
Address: 375 S Jennersville Rd	ED/CEO E-mail: n/a
City, State Zip: West Grove, PA 19390	Board Chair (President) Name: Leslie Erb-Wallace
Phone: 484-225-0976	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Mike Adams
Website: www.avongroveeducationfoundation.org	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: madams@avongroveeducationfoundation.org
EIN: 82-1953602	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$10,000.00
Year Founded: 2017	

*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: Michael S Adams	Date: November 9, 2020
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**Nonprofit Field/s of Interest**

<input type="checkbox"/> Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Health
<input 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	\$27,866.50	\$46,191.50
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	0	0
# Board Volunteers	18	18
# Committee Volunteers	16	16
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	18	18
Annual Volunteer Hours	~1500	~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 type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Comm Fdn	<input type="checkbox"/> Brandywine Health Fdtn	<input type="checkbox"/> United Way ChesCo	<input type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Dept Comm Devel
<input type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Fund/W&Girls	<input type="checkbox"/> Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn	<input type="checkbox"/> United Way S ChesCo	<input type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Dept Health
Other significant funders:			<input type="checkbox"/> ChesCo Dept Human Svcs

No	Yes	Federal Single Audit
X		Is your nonprofit subject to a federal single audit (formerly known as the OMB Circular A-133 audit)?
		If yes, did your nonprofit's most recent federal single audit disclose any issues?
		If yes, have these issues been adequately addressed?

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

1. Mission

The mission of AGEF is to raise philanthropic support to expand and enhance educational opportunities and to create connections for the students in the Avon Grove School District. AGEF works to promote community involvement in public education by channeling donations from businesses, corporations, and individuals to provide an alternative source of funding for creative and innovative teaching and learning.

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

Avon Grove School District - Avon Grove covers 67 square miles and consists of 7 municipalities; they include New London Township, London Grove Township, London Britain Township, Penn Township, Franklin Township, Avondale Borough and West Grove Borough.

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

Student Demographics (roughly 5100 students): 75 percent Caucasian; 19.5 percent Hispanic; 2.5 percent African American; 1.9 percent Asian; and less than 1 percent both American Indian/Alaskan Native and multi-racial. These numbers have been essentially unaffected by COVID-19, as students remain in school, currently in a virtual environment, with plans to return to a hybrid environment shortly, as case numbers allow.

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

The COVID-19 crisis has had two major impacts on our foundation. First, our opportunities for fundraising have been drastically diminished. Second, students being in a virtual learning environment has changed the type, but not volume, of some of the teacher grant requests which we are expecting.

From a fundraising perspective, we ceased seeking corporate sponsorship for a period of about six months, due to sensitivity around requesting funding during financially challenging times for many companies. We also cancelled all in-person group fundraising events. While we have found ways to still garner some corporate funds and even recently held our first 'Door Drop' fundraiser (selling bags of goodies to be delivered to the front doors of students' homes in order to raise their spirits), the effect on our planned revenue was a reduction of \$18,325, or roughly 40% of our originally planned budget.

While the budget shortfall is quite real, the needs of the teachers, if anything, have only increased. We were able to deliver on two teacher grant requests in the early fall, and as we embark on soliciting new grant requests for our next round of funding, we expect there to be a wide range of needs, including an influx of requests related to the virtual environment in which our teachers and students now find themselves. We are concerned that there may not be the funds required to meet all the needs, though we are committed to funding the highest priority requests with the funds we do have.

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?

These funds would be used to fulfill our commitment to funding all worthy teacher grant requests, as has been our goal from the outset of the foundation. Knowing that requests come to us in a fairly regular cadence, we would have been skeptical six months ago if we were told we'd be able to fulfill all the requests we would receive in the 2020-21 school year. Despite our challenging position, we decided to alter our fundraising events to cater better to a virtual and socially-distanced environment, and double down on pursuing corporate sponsorship from companies we knew were financially stable through the crisis, and have managed to cobble together a reasonable revenue stream for the school year, though it is still inadequate to fulfill all our goals. I believe 'innovative and resilient' are great words to describe how we as AGEF board members feel about our actions thus far this year, and receiving this grant would further that resiliency on behalf of the teachers and students of the Avon Grove School District. We were all dealt a difficult hand this year, but we will have been patient and flexible and thus able to find ways to meet the needs which were brought to us.

As with all the grant requests we fund, and AGSD community would benefit by enabling the teachers, the experts on the ground, to implement the innovative programs which they see would best benefit their students. Because the needs of the classrooms have changed so much this year, due to virtual and hybrid learning models, it is important fund these needs now, as they have typically not been included in the AGSD budget. This is the sweet spot for the AGEF – we are able to quickly react to these types of changing needs and can fund a grant request on a moment's notice if required. We are able to deliver on opportunities which may be entirely missed if forced to go through the annual school district budgeting process.

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?

We are seeking a \$10,000 grant to make up part of our fundraising shortfall due to the COVID-19 crisis. Our primary fundraising event is our annual Maroon and Gold Night, a wine-tasting event at a local vineyard. This event netted over \$9400 in 2019 and we were expecting a larger crowd in 2020, conservatively anticipating a profit of roughly \$10,000. This request is to largely replace the profit from that most critical fundraising event, which had to be cancelled. The \$10,000 request represents 21.6% of our original budget (35.9% of our revised budget) and 54.6% of our budget shortfall caused by the COVID-19 crisis. We would use these funds in the coming six months on the teacher grant requests which we anticipate receiving before the end of the 2020-21 school year.