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

###
Nonprofit Org Name: YMWIC Foundation Inc.
ED/CEO Name: Richard Roberts III
Address: 1500 W. Woodbank Way
City, State Zip: West Chester, PA 19380
Phone: 215-680-6519
Website: www.ymwicfoundation.org
EIN: 2-0202360
Year Founded: 2007

ED/CEO E-mail: rrobertsiii@ymwicfoundation.org
Board Chair Name: Richard Roberts III
Grant Proposal Contact Name: Richard Roberts III
Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: Same
Grant $ Amount Requested: $40,000

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: Richard Roberts III
Date: 11/5/20

Mission: YMWIC’s mission is to empower and prepare economically disadvantaged and historically underrepresented youth to excel and become leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers through academic tutoring, mentoring and financial assistance programs, accomplished by leveraging alliances with K-12 school districts, universities, corporations and our committed partners.

We accomplish our Mission by embracing a family model that provides individually targeted services: academic support and tutoring; involvement of the family in each young scholar’s program; participation in YMWIC programs, such as Robotics Competitions and annual College Tours; and assignment to a personal mentor in the STEM professions. Once enrolled in the organization, each young scholar and his/her family becomes part of the YMWIC family. They make a commitment to stay in the Program until high school
graduation, to participate fully in program activities and maintain a high grade point average. While in college, thanks to the commitment of our corporate partners, each scholar who maintains the Foundation’s academic requirements and standards will be eligible to receive scholarship support and participate in internships that will further prepare them for STEM or other professional careers. YMWIC offers five academic scholar groups for students in Grades 3 through 12. The scholar groups are aligned with the Foundation’s Mission. Group activities aim to bridge the gap between academic study and real-world experiences by providing opportunities, projects, and challenges that simulate real-life activities.

**What geographic area is served?** (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served) Sixty percent of our participants reside in Chester County and are served by our chapters in Coatesville, Phoenixville, Lincoln University and West Chester; and the remainder are served by our chapters in neighboring Greater Philadelphia communities in Norristown, Upper Darby, and Lansdowne.

**What population is served?** YMWIC’s K-16 programs currently serve scholars who are economically disadvantaged or underrepresented within the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers. Aside from the inaugural West Chester Chapter, YMWIC targets school districts with a high number of free or reduced lunch recipients. Therefore, many families are in the poverty range and/or TANF category (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). Research shows that family economics, education and exposure to careers are the key barriers impacting students from pursuing STEM careers. To pursue a STEM field requires rigorous English, Math and Science courses along with support and mentorship. YMWIC’s program guarantees every graduate, meeting or exceeding established criteria, an opportunity to earn a scholarship to attend a college of their choice. The amount of scholarship awarded is determined by their academics and commitment towards the YMWIC’s Program. YMWIC has 41 alumni matriculating or have graduated from college. The College Alumni are either working in a professional field or attending a full-time graduate program completing a master’s or doctoral degree.

**How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID?** COVID’s impact has resulted in a dramatic decrease in scholar enrollment and staffing. In addition, we’re experiencing sizable increases in costs due to expensed digital licenses critical to supporting our programs. Our 2020 summer program had 200 committed summer program registrations with a target of 350 by May 2020. To support the summer program, YMWIC committed employment to 32 seasonal staff members. By June of 2020, YMWIC returned registration fees to all but 20 scholars. Consequently, YMWIC had to retract offers to our seasonal employees. B) YMWIC purchased 150 licenses for the Online Edmentum Math and Science Tool planned for the summer program. C) YMWIC After-School Program membership had a steady increase annually to serve 150 Scholars by the 2019-2020 Program Year. The enrollment declined to 115 by May 2020, primarily due to our families’ lack of technology at home and our limitations to have face-to-face support. D) YMWIC’s Annual College Tour to Penn State, Lehigh University, Indiana University of Penn, Temple University and Princeton University was postponed in April 2020, E) YMWIC’s Annual Robotics Competition in Northern Virginia was postponed due to COVID. F) Our May 2020 Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala, planned for 500 attendees was converted to a virtual event. Our forecasted revenue was $100K, but we came in at 30% of the target. G) Recruitment and enrollment for the 2020-2021 was/is slow. The events and activities offered by YMWIC are an important draw in retention and recruitment. Finally, YMWIC used a grant writer for the past two years to support program and operational needs. During the end of Summer 2020, our grant writer terminated her services, at short notice; because she needed to assist and monitor her son, a learning support student, as a result of school closings from COVID-19. The impact of losing our grant writer was a devastating and unexpected blow. YMWIC had several planned grants that were missed due to the lack of support. At the moment, the Executive Director is writing grants while searching for a highly-qualified grant writer.

**What has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?** Although COVID-19 negatively impacted our summer program and our Pre-College After-School Program, YMWIC transitioned from in-person to virtual workshops and activities, but at a smaller scale due to the steep decline in enrollment. We were able to virtually administer the workshops and training during the remainder of the 2019-
2020 Program Year; however, the summer program and our current 2020-2021 Program Year sessions were and are at reduced levels. Although workshops and activities were declining, YMWIC conducted our Annual Science Expo and our Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala virtually. The impact on the limited numbers were of high quality. However, with the lower numbers, our Gala and Science Expo did not reach its target fundraising numbers.

**Applying innovation at short notice:** On March 21, 2020, the Annual Science Expo was scheduled at B. Reed Henderson High School with a target audience of 200 while serving over 100 scholars with 60 volunteers. On March 8, 2020, we received notification from Dr. James Scanlon, West Chester Area School District Superintendent, that our event had to be cancelled.

YMWIC determined that it can still host the event virtually using WebEx, with 14 virtual rooms. Although the event did not meet target financial and exposure numbers, the event had a very positive impact on the scholars we serve, the judges involved, and the live streamed event.

The 60 volunteers who supported the event returned during the Partner Kickoff Meeting in September excited about the upcoming 2021 event.

**The 10th Annual Gala & Anniversary Event:** Although our targets of 500 attendees and $100,000 in scholarship fund were stifled, the event still went on in a live streaming format. Governor Wolf opened the program sharing the importance of STEM, congratulating all scholars especially graduating seniors and recognizing our community leaders. Our Keynote Speaker, Mr. Ted Childs, provided an amazing message fitting for current events. The event started with a group of Scholars reciting our credo, Alum and senior West Chester University Student, Dulce Juarez introduced our EMCEE and multiple captioned throughout the event provided our Facebook and Website audience with a glimpse of the resilience of YMWIC. Although we did not meet our financial numbers during our 10th Anniversary Gala, the event leveraged the latest technology in live streaming and virtual programs. **Reference: Link to the 10th Annual Gala.** Again, YMWIC did not reach our Scholarship forecast numbers.

**What would this funding be used for?**

1. YMWIC’s staff members and some of the scholars served are having difficulty staying connected within our programming and operations. Therefore, we will purchase additional WiFi Hotspots (wireless access point connecting users to the Internet) for staff and families to ensure connectivity continues during our program and operations activities.
2. Restructuring how we are administering programs: Additional effort to fulfill programs and operational tasks using I/T equipment and tasks to ensure we can sustain scholar membership and improve efficiency in how we deliver our programming.
3. Initial Feeder funds for grant writer: YMWIC lost significant revenue due to a) Event Planning and Execution shortfall used to raise Scholarship and Programming resources, b) loss of revenue from formally administering the Fall Campaign Program and c) submission of recurring grants.
4. Reusable STEM Kits for workshops. Our workshops have changed to adapt to COVID. Therefore, we are designing and building reusable kits that can be delivered to YMWIC members to enhance learning experiences and support membership retention.

**How does this demonstrate innovation and resiliency in dealing with COVID impacts?** Prior to COVID, 100% of YMWIC’s workshops are administered in person within the buildings of the school districts and partner sites (various corporations). **Innovation:** YMWIC adapted to COVID by successfully delivering its hands-on curriculum using Zoom, WebEx and Microsoft Teams. The virtual tools were used to support operational and training for the staff. In addition, YMWIC needed to restructure and train staff to adjust to administering an online curriculum that is exciting, engaging and interesting using our customized STEM Kits. **Resiliency:** Continuity of services is critical. YMWIC continues to efficiently and effectively deliver high-quality services, albeit limitations on delivery methods and retention. YMWIC staff and volunteers are currently facilitating our STEM-related workshops. However, the implementation process has been adjusted to
1. Programming – Community Services – letters
2. Creating enhanced curriculum for workshops
3. Building the Workshop Kits that are delivered to scholars so that our virtual sessions can still be interactive and hands-on
4. Purchasing additional licenses for Coding Curriculum
5. Enhancing YMWIC’s current I/T Enterprise Platform so our members and scholars served have direct connection to our services

What would be the community impact of this anticipated funding? The funding received will allow YMWIC to continue programming; provide resources impacting high school and college graduation rates; and ensure scholar achievement and success in math, science and English. Further, the programs administered not only prepares our scholars for the rigors of college; programming also give our scholars and their families hope about their chances of getting out of poverty. YMWIC will be able to improve the academic and future condition of over 100 – 150 students across four school districts in Chester County.

Why is it important to fund this now? YMWIC is in need of additional funding in time for the 4th Quarter 2020 and 1st Quarter 2021 to ensure we don’t lose more scholars due to connectivity, motivation and support issues.

How much funding is sought? $40,000

How does this compare to your annual operating budget and this year's projected deficit? YMWIC’s projected operating budget was $750,000. However, due to COVID, we are on track for coming in at about $500,000.

1. What is the expected timeframe for use of funds? $15,000 will be used during the 4th Quarter 2020 while $25,000 during 1st and 2nd Quarters 2021.
Please e-mail all materials as a word.doc and/or pdf to grants@chescocf.org:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This <strong>Innovation &amp; Resiliency Fund Grant Request</strong> cover sheet &amp; brief narrative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current annual operating budget &amp; most recent audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501c3 determination letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current strategic plan. If none, explain why your nonprofit doesn’t have a plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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 &amp; equipment, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Proposals will only be accepted by e-mail. This grant form is available at [https://chescocf.org/covidgrant/](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