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

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Contact Information
Nonprofit Org Name: The Arc of Chester County  |  ED/CEO Name: Jeanne Meikrantz
Address: 900 Lawrence Drive  |  ED/CEO E-mail: jmeikrantz@arcofchestercounty.org
City, State Zip: West Chester, PA 19380  |  Board Chair Name: Matthew Holliday
Phone: 610-696-8090  |  Grant Proposal Contact Name: Karen DiVincenzo
Website: www.arcofchestercounty.org  |  Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: kdivincenzo@arcofchestercounty.org
EIN: 23-1604737  |  Grant $ Amount Requested: $60,000
Year Founded: 1952

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: Jeanne Meikrantz, Executive Director  |  Date: 11/6/2020

Nonprofit Field/s of Interest
- Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation
- Community Development
- Education
- Environment & Animal Welfare
- Health
X  Human Services

Figures
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Operating Budget</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ 19,411,218</td>
<td>$ 17,191,893</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff</td>
<td>46FT and 1196 PT</td>
<td>49FT and 979 PT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Board Volunteers</td>
<td># 17</td>
<td># 17</td>
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<tr>
<td># Committee Volunteers</td>
<td># N/A</td>
<td># N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td># Active Direct Service Volunteers</td>
<td># 577</td>
<td># 575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Volunteer Hours</td>
<td># 13,500</td>
<td># 13,800</td>
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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
ChesCo Fund/W&Girls  |  Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn  |  United Way S ChesCo  |  ChesCo Dept Health
Other significant funders: Philadelphia Fnd: $20,000; Connelly Fnd. $40,000  |  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
2. What geographic area is served? (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served)
3. What population is served? How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID?
4. What has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?
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?
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?
1. **Mission**: To advocate, educate, and provide services to empower individuals with disabilities and their families to enhance the quality of their lives.

2. **Geographic area served**: The Arc serves individuals of all ages with disabilities and their families throughout all of Chester County.

3. **Population and Impact of COVID-19**: More than 3,000 children and adults with developmental, intellectual, and other disabilities and their families receive vital direct services, supports and advocacy programming from The Arc each year. Our programs are designed to carry out our mission to advocate, educate, and provide services to empower individuals with disabilities and their families to enhance the quality of their lives. While we remain totally committed to our mission, COVID-19 restrictions on our programs, activities and supports significantly halted our ability to provide some vital services at the level or frequency needed. And now as restrictions are being lifted, we are faced with the costs of renovations and equipment necessary to provide our services safely and with the health of all participants and staff as a top priority.

**The Arc’s Response to Covid-19**

When the pandemic reached our region in mid-March 2020 and government and health department orders required the closing or suspension of in person services for some of our services. However the Arc remained operational through safe in person services and we quickly began remote teleservices for as many services as possible including our preschool in order to provide essential services to ensure continuity of care, health and safety and to continue to respond to those seeking guidance and other vital services and supports. All onsite pre-school and day care (2- year old program) services for children with and without disabilities, adult transportation and recreation activities were suspended. Most of our staff from our agency headquarters initially worked remotely with only a few approved staff coming to the building each day to maintain safety and keep operations flowing. We continue to rely on some remote work and some facility work to stagger work schedules, maximize social distancing and ensure effective operations. As an essential business we continued to operate and continued to support our program participants and families through in person and teleservices, so they were not left without critical and essential supports.

We continued to provide in person life sustaining and essential services to over 550 individuals and families much like a home health agency and also continued to provide preschool and other critical in home services through phone support (teleservices) so individuals and families were not left isolated, afraid. It was/is critical for us to continue to support them with our essential services. We have been able to continue safe in person services and safe facility operations by following all recommended hygiene, social distancing and use of PPE guidance and protocols.

It became clear early on in the pandemic that The Arc would need to pivot to more innovative ways of reaching and supporting those we serve. While we knew that there was really no perfect substitute for providing both physical and emotional in-person support for our participants, we also were committed to doing all that we could to provide services virtually through our limited technology. Our program directors embraced the challenge and worked together to use what technology was available to them and our participants were grateful for our continued support.

Many of our adult participants rely upon our Comprehensive Employment Services (CES) for their employment, income, and independence. We have many individuals who really want to work and
need to work; however, so many businesses closed or have drastically reduced their hours. New adults seeking help through CES were scheduled for interviews just as the pandemic reached us and unfortunately, they missed out on job opportunities because of the COVID-19 restrictions. We did however continue teleservices during this initial period. As things opened back up we have been able to resume safe in person services and have continued remote work and teleservices to help our program participants return to work safely, or get new jobs. We work with them and the employer to ensure they are working in safe employment environments. We are staying in touch with all our CES participants via phone and electronic methods and each day we are working safely in person with more people.

Like many of our services, Education Advocacy pivoted quickly to providing our services via telephone and teleservices to ensure the health and safety of all involved. Calls for advocacy support continued at a very high level and we have been able to respond and provide all of the supports needed. A prime example of this change in the mode of delivery of our services included providing our traditionally in-person group training gatherings called Chat and Chews via online presentations this past spring. As needed, we will continue this practice in lieu of community-based gatherings.

The Children’s Early Learning Service (early Intervention birth- 3) in person services were stopped by the Office of Child Development (OCDEL), however we continued to provide these critical services to the families through teleservices. Despite the fact that some of these services were not confirmed to be eligible for payment by OCDEL for almost a month into the orders to stop in person services, The Arc made the decision to continue these critical and essential services to all infants, toddlers and families through teleservices. Our Early Interventionists reached out to families to keep a line of communication open, adapted lesson plans for at-home activities and projects and to offered customized and modified at home solutions to support the continuation of the services. Also, our teachers utilized technology enabling continued support and assistance without in-person contact. Our staff who worked in our West Chester facility providing 2-year old and preschool services (prior to mandated closure) continued to work remotely through teleservices to ensure that regression did not occur, and progress and support continued.

As The Arc Reopens Safely—
On September 8, 2020 we successfully reopened our onsite preschool. We submitted a more than sixty page plan to our board and the Department of Education for how we would safely resume in person learning for any parent choosing this option for their child and honored their choice to continue teleservices. The lift to make this a reality was heavy and came at a significant cost. However on September 8, 2020 it was incredible to welcome our children, parents, teachers, medical professionals, and other staff back to our facility after almost six months of providing services virtually. The Arc is now faced with the need to significantly renovate and modify our bathrooms facilities to upgrade old facilities while more efficiently addressing all the new health guidance to ensure the safety and health of all involved. To date we have completed Phase 1 of health and safety modifications to our facility lobby to protect arriving participants and reception staff; made significant renovations to our preschool classroom and therapy areas, created a isolation/sick room, provided new hygiene friendly and accessible storage for classroom supplies, secured all required cleaning and PPE’s and made significant modifications to the facility flooring, walls and room set up to accommodate social distancing and new cleaning methods.

The Arc remains focused and committed to moving our mission, services, and impact forward in the current fiscal year and beyond. As mentioned, during Covid-19 pandemic most of our programs continued in alternative formats, mostly through teleintervention.
To effectively continue the vital and important services The Arc provides, we must now address the need to upgrade our capacity for the use of technology by purchasing and installing a new server in our facility.

5. and 6. Funding Details
The Arc is grateful for the opportunity to seek a $60,000 Innovation-Resiliency Grant from Chester County Community Foundation to go towards the purchase of a new server and the costs associated with installation and construction of a proper server room. Our current server has reached its life span. With employees working remotely and delivering much needed reservices via teleservice, we rely heavily on technology to function properly to help streamline our operations and increase the effectiveness of our programs and to potentially reach additional people with disabilities.

Now more than ever in the wake of COVID-19 we are utilizing technology to ensure that our vital and essential programs and services remain available for our participants of all ages. Our preschool and physical therapy teachers have been able to keep our doors ‘virtually’ open by proving quality, continued teleservices for both student and parents. We have been fortunate to open our preschool doors in September of 2020 but many of our students with multiple and more life-threatening disabilities have remained teleservice students. Parents have conveyed that these teleservices have been a lifeline—and the continuation of this lifeline is only possible with a quality and dependable server. Older students seeking IEP support through our Education Advocacy group have been guided through Teams and Zoom calls virtually gathering student, parent, teacher, and Arc advocate to best support the child’s needs. A new server will allow us to seamlessly continue this efficient, effective and hygienically safe practice.

Our Comprehensive Employment Services program job coaches have also relied heavily on technology to continue supporting job seekers whose roles have changed since the new demands of COVID-19. Social distancing necessitated online training where job coaches have been a sounding board for our participant’s wellbeing during COVID, as well as providing training for newly acquired roles.

The Arc of Chester County also depends on technology to support virtual events that have helped raise funds, awareness, and spirits. Our 2020 virtual Walk-Run fundraiser event helped a community rally together to walk strong in support of individuals with disabilities. Technology stores and protects the precious data of these event goers, peer-to-peer fundraisers, donors, institutions, and corporations, we depend on to help keep The Arc afloat and moving forward with programs and services. Quick, reliable, and secure technology also allows our community to feel confident when making online pledges and donations and that their information will remain protected.

The Arc of Chester County supports a community with disabilities who rely on us for advocacy, education, employment, respite care, and many other vital day to day services dependent on both employee and technology. Many of these programs are truly a lifeline to those we serve. Our teachers, job coaches, advocates and volunteers work every day to build upon the resiliency that is already deep within our children, adults and their families. But now we must seek support to build up our technological capabilities in order to embrace the ‘new normal’ which is the combination of virtual services and in-person programs. Without a new server to continue supporting these needs, our services and the progress of our participant could be in jeopardy. Thank you for the opportunity
to apply for this grant and to hopefully acquire a new server to continue supporting our community for generations to come.

We have determined the approximate total project cost to be $100,000. This includes a new server, building a server room, and other associated costs. The cost of the server was not included in The Arc’s projection of the fiscal 20-21 budget. This is now a need that must be filled. The Arc was fortunate to receive CARES funding to support the Fiscal 20-21 Budget.

**Timeline for Project**
If awarded the funds we will begin this project immediately with a completion goal of 6/30/2021

**With Gratitude**
Thank you again for responding to this crisis and for all the work that you do for our communities and our fellow non-profit organizations.

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

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