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
Contact Information

Nonprofit Org Name: Youth Mentoring Partnership  
ED/CEO Name: Mark Mintzer  
Address: 967 E. Swedesford Road, Suite 401  
ED/CEO E-mail: mark@youthmp.org  
City, State Zip: Exton, Pa 19341  
Board Chair Name: Scott Dillman  
Phone: (484) 595-9204  
Grant Proposal Contact Name: Mark Mintzer  
Website: www.youthmp.org  
Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: mark@youthmp.org  
EIN: 26-1366523  
Grant $ Amount Requested: $46,250  
Year Founded: 2007

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: [Signature]  
Date: 11/11/2020

Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

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

Figures

| Annual Operating Budget | Current | $ 517,391 | $ 470,671 |
| Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff | # 7 | # 7 |
| # Board Volunteers | # 10 | # 11 |
| # Committee Volunteers | # 5 | # 5 |
| # Active Direct Service Volunteers | # 17 | # 9 |
| Annual Volunteer Hours | #1350 | #1430 |

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 | x | Brandywine Health Fdn | x | United Way ChesCo |
| ChesCo Fund/W&Girls | Phoenixville Comm Health Fdn | United Way S ChesCo | ChesCo Dept Comm Devel |
| Other significant funders: Tompkins-Broll Foundation, AmeriCorps, Up2Us | ChesCo Dept Health | ChesCo Dept Human Svcs |

No | Yes | Federal Single Audit

| 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 year’s projected deficit? What is the expected timeframe for use of funds?
Please e-mail all materials as a word.doc and/or pdf to grants@chescof.org:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This Innovation &amp; Resiliency Fund Grant Request cover sheet &amp; brief narrative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x Current annual operating budget &amp; most recent audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x 501c3 determination letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x 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 (i.e. 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://chescof.org/covidgrant/](https://chescof.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.chescof.org](http://www.chescof.org)
grants@chescof.org 610.696.8211
Mission
Youth Mentoring Partnership (YMP) leverages the power of fitness and sports to build powerful mentoring relationships with youth so they may develop the support, skills and character strengths needed to overcome obstacles and succeed in school, work and relationships – now and in the future!

YMP collaborates with schools, teachers, coaches and community organizations to provide support, staff and a proven social emotional learning (SEL) curriculum to serve our area’s most vulnerable children. Free of charge programming takes place in the classroom, on the sports field and in local fitness centers. Programmatic goals focus on building positive adult and peer relationships, teaching goal setting skills, developing grit, resiliency and the practice of gratitude and improving physical and mental health.

YMP programming began in 2000 as part of a collaboration initiated by Chester County’s Department Human Services and funded through a 4-year research grant by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

What geographic area is served?
In Chester County 90% of our students are from the Greater Coatesville Area while the remainder reside in the West Chester, Great Valley and T/E School Districts.

What population is served? How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID?
Prior to COVID-19 YMP was serving 400+ vulnerable Chester County youth, male and female, ages 10-19. Well over sixty percent qualify for free breakfast/lunch and self-identify as Black, African American, Latinx and/or multiracial. Service numbers have been significantly impacted due to virtual schooling.

What has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?
With the closing of Coatesville Area School District (CASD) schools and the hurdles of online learning, our staff and mentors were swiftly cut off from our students. Understanding that the economic, mental and physical trauma from the pandemic would hit our youth and their families the hardest, we immediately pivoted our services. This included new strategic focuses on: 1) Food access 2) Web-based curriculum and instruction 3) Online Mentoring and Social Emotion Learning (SEL).

As a result of the pandemic, food insecurity quickly became a food emergency. Collaborating with CASD and Coatesville Area Community Parents (CCAP) YMP staff, and volunteers began distributing food to help address this crisis and as a way to continue engagement and support of our kids. After several weeks of watching mothers pushing baby strollers for miles in the rain, or 10-year olds walking alone with younger siblings in tow to get to central food distribution sites we knew there was a problem. As a solution, YMP volunteered to shoulder the responsibility of delivering food directly to homes that didn’t have transportation, childcare or had health concerns. Our basic belief being, “No one should go hungry or put themselves at risk so they can
have enough food to eat”. Since March, the coalition has package and distributed over 200,000 meals and YMP will remain on the frontlines making weekly delivers until the pandemic subsides.

In response to the challenges and frustrations of virtual schooling, YMP has developed web-based SEL and fitness content for our teachers and coaches. This includes 40 online videos ranging from general fitness, yoga to conditioning for football. All materials have an emphasis on human connection, humor, and SEL. Given the uncertainty of in-school instruction, we will continue these efforts even as we transition back into the classroom.

Isolation from established, positive support systems is negatively affecting all of our kids but particularly the most at-risk. These youth are reporting higher levels of disengagement, anxiety and depression. As a remedy, YMP researched, received training and launched a successful pilot of an online SEL mentoring platform. This nationally acclaimed platform, developed with support from The Department of Education, is both evidenced and outcomes based. Most importantly it will allow us to securely connect, in a meaningful way, our mentors and teachers for 22-weeks of SEL activities. This initiative has the added benefit of providing the opportunity for expanded community collaborations and remote volunteering.

COVID-19 has also had a significant impact on our fundraising efforts. Stay at home orders and social distancing forced us to cancel two major fundraising special events at a loss of $50,000 and the economic downturn resulted in our largest donor suspending monthly contributions of $10,000 until further notice. PPP, emergency COVID funds and donations from individuals and foundations have helped us close the initial gap. In hopes of further narrowing the remaining deficit, a newly designed YMP virtual raffle and auction is being launched.

**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?**

Funding from this grant would be utilized to support our mission of helping kids and the communities in which they live by addressing their immediate nutritional, physical and mental health needs, supporting their “natural mentors” - teachers and coaches, establishing positive support systems in a time of crisis and providing social emotional learning opportunities.

The quick adaptation of YMP services and innovative programming demonstrates understanding of our students and community needs. This crisis has also demanded continual resiliency from our leadership and staff as circumstances and plans change, sometimes on a daily basis. The good news is that this is EXACTLY what we teach our students. When things don’t go your way – reassess, make a plan B, and be prepared to be gritty and persevere when things get tough.

**PROGRAM SERVICE & REDSIGN / INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY**

Though outside our primary service model, we will continue to fill the food emergency gap by delivering meals to some of our County’s most vulnerable youth and families. Expenses including staffing, volunteer recruitment/screening, materials and transportation costs. $12,425.

Continued web-based curriculum and content development to support our teachers during virtual and hybrid schooling. Costs include personnel, creative support and innovative technology including updated software and hardware. $6,330
Online Mentoring and Social Emotion Learning (SEL) platform to address the effects of social isolation, increase community engagement and foster organizational collaboration. Fees consist of staffing, platform fees, training, volunteer recruitment/screening/training, and updated technology. $13,000

**REDSIGNED AND RECONCEIVED MARKETING, FUNDRAISING AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

Virtual Raffle/Auction to replace loss of revenue from cancelled large gathering special events. Costs include; Website development and Professional fees, Staffing and AmeriCorps Communications VISTA stipends, licensing and fees, $14,450

**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?**

YMP’s total request is $46,250, which is approximately 9% of our annual budget and 52% of our projected deficit as of Oct 31st. We anticipate that all funds would be utilized by December 31, 2020