

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: YoungMoms	ED/CEO Name: Molly Henry
Address: P.O. Box 376	ED/CEO E-mail: molly.henry@youngmomscommunity.com
City, State Zip: Kennett Square, PA 19348	Board Chair Name: Casey Irwin
Phone: 855-964-6667	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Molly Henry
Website: www.youngmomscommunity.com	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: molly.henry@youngmomscommunity.com
EIN: 47-5319831	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$23,000
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: Molly Henry	Date: 10/26/2020
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Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Health
Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment & Animal Welfare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Human Services

Figures	Current	PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)
Annual Operating Budget	\$ 402,600	\$ 340,110
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	# 4.5	# 4.25
# Board Volunteers	# 7	# 7
# Committee Volunteers	# 18	# 18
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	# 98	# 200
Annual Volunteer Hours	# 990 (to date)	# 2,600

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ChesCo Comm Fdn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brandywine Health Fdtn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	United Way ChesCo	<input type="checkbox"/>	ChesCo Dept Comm Devel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ChesCo Fund/W&Girls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn	<input checked="" 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Is your nonprofit subject to a federal single audit (formerly known as the OMB Circular A-133 audit)?</i>
		<i>If yes, did your nonprofit's most recent federal single audit disclose any issues?</i>
		<i>If yes, have these issues been adequately addressed?</i>

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

1. Mission

The mission of YoungMoms is to inspire and equip young moms to build thriving futures for themselves and their families. YoungMoms provides the academic, employment, parenting and relational support pregnant and parenting young women need to achieve their life goals and create intergenerational impact. YoungMoms empowers these young women to take control of their lives and equips them with new skills to face challenging circumstances and overcome obstacles. Over the last 10 years, YoungMoms has helped more than 185 teen moms stay in high school, pursue college education or vocational training, gain parenting and other life skills, and connect with community resources. Investing in teen moms has a ripple effect on entire families and the community as a whole.

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

YoungMoms serves clients throughout the southern Chester County region, including Kennett Square, Toughkenamon, Avondale, West Grove, Nottingham, and Oxford.

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

YoungMoms serves pregnant and parenting young women who enter the program between the ages of 13 and 21 years old and reside in Southern Chester County, PA. Our clients face huge challenges, including: poverty, incomplete education, unemployment, housing instability, domestic violence, language barriers, isolation, lack of health care, and depression. In a typical year, we serve roughly 58-60 young moms, and actively serve 43-45 at any given time. With the COVID-19 crisis and the acute needs it has brought to our community, our numbers are increasing. We are actively serving 50 young moms and expect to have served close to 70 by the end of the year. In addition, the complexity and scope of the needs our clients are facing have increased substantially, requiring additional staff time and case management support.

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

The COVID-19 crisis has brought unique challenges to our young moms and our organization. Most of our young moms are low-wage service workers/hourly employees who lost their jobs or experienced drastically-reduced work hours early in the pandemic. These young women were already living paycheck to paycheck while navigating very difficult life circumstances. Since their safety net was already very thin, the COVID-19 crisis only exacerbated their financial and life challenges. We have received nearly double the number of referrals each month than we normally receive, and the young moms who are entering our program (and the ones already involved) are demonstrating more acute and complex needs brought on by COVID, including economic hardship, increased domestic violence, virtual learning challenges, and housing/food insecurity. Many of our young moms are also disproportionately affected by the disease itself since many live in multi-family housing situations where social distancing is difficult. In response to the increasing number of clients and their more extensive needs, we hired an additional part-time case manager this fall so that we do not have to turn any potential pregnant or parenting teens away.

As an organization, we have worked extremely hard to ensure minimal disruption of services to these vulnerable young women and their families. Case managers have been working closely (and remotely when necessarily) with clients to continue progress on goal achievements, to identify emergency needs, and to connect young moms to area resources and/or fill in acute gaps where necessary. Early in the pandemic we coordinated and delivered bi-weekly care packages of diapers, wipes, formula, and grocery gift cards to those of our young moms who were hardest hit financially; we have continued to provide emergency material assistance as needed. We have also adapted our large group Club nights, ESL classes, and life skills workshops to a virtual setting, ensuring that this key component of our service delivery is fulfilled.

4. 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 has forced us as an organization to adapt, shift certain priorities, and incorporate innovative approaches to ensure our young moms and their children have their basic needs met and are continuing to make progress toward their academic, vocational, parenting, and life goals. Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers have demonstrated incredible resiliency as they have relentlessly helped move our young moms toward more stable futures despite ever-changing circumstances, modifications to service delivery methods, and increasing needs among those we serve. It is important to fund this now, because we are facing increasing numbers of young women needing our support and the extent of their need is the greatest our organization has seen to date. In addition, great uncertainty around donor/foundation/special event income in the foreseeable future may impact our ability to serve these young moms well.

We respectfully request funding for the following areas where our organization has been and will be most critically impacted by COVID:

1) **Increased case management.** Very early in the pandemic, we adapted all of our in-person workshops and trainings to be virtual, which created unique challenges and extra work as we made sure every young mom had access to online content, modified our materials to suit the virtual setting, and designed creative solutions for keeping our clients engaged and moving forward toward their goals. We hired an additional part-time case manager as our caseload increased and the scope of clients' needs expanded along with it. Staff found creative ways to address new issues (such as helping our student young moms navigate virtual learning, organizing volunteers to provide virtual ESL support, equipping mentors to stay engaged despite social distancing, etc.) and to accommodate increased client need in pandemic-specific areas such as job loss, crisis budgeting, child care disruptions, and housing/food insecurity. We also had to adapt our service delivery to

include a more substantial focus on addressing acute material needs. Normally we distribute roughly \$5,000 in emergency assistance to young moms in a given year; so far in 2020 we have already spent more than \$14,000 to ensure our young moms have necessary items like diapers, formula, food, and the ability to pay their rent and bills, since movement toward larger educational or vocational goals cannot take place if basic needs are not addressed. Case managers have had to spend extra time working with volunteers to collect and organize those items and to coordinate the delivery to our young moms in greatest need.

2) Reconfigured development efforts, including marketing and special events.

The imminent funding landscape for our organization is largely still unknown. We anticipate that we will have to be especially creative as we face a potential shortfall of donations from individuals and from foundations, several of whom have already indicated changing funding priorities. Specifically, this resiliency grant would be applied toward:

-The redesign (using a consultant and increased staff time) of our largest fundraising event—our annual Brunch/Auction, which takes place in early March. This event typically draws 250+ people and raises more than \$40,000. Our Board has already concluded that, due to COVID-19, we will *not* be able to hold the event in-person this year. Funds would help us rethink and reimagine the event to be virtual or to come up with a different plan for raising that significant source of funding through a series of smaller fundraisers.

-The increased hours necessary for our contract grant writer as she adapts our grant content and seeks new revenue streams.

-The hiring of a videographer to effectively capture and communicate our young moms' stories for distribution on social media and via our virtual Brunch. The ability to share our stories and impact in a meaningful way will be critical to our efforts to keep donors engaged.

5. 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?

YoungMoms respectfully requests \$23,000 to be used over the next 6-9 months to support additional case management to meet client needs (\$16,000) and the increased grantwriting, consultant, and videographer costs associated with the re-design of our fundraising efforts, in particular our annual Fundraising Brunch (\$7,000). This constitutes 5% of our operating budget and roughly 50% of projected income loss from funders and special events.

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

x	This Innovation & Resiliency Fund Grant Request cover sheet & brief narrative
x	Current annual operating budget & most recent audit
x	501c3 determination letter
x	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. This grant form is 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