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: Chester Co. Fund for Women and Girls  
ED/CEO Name: Michelle Legaspi Sanchez  
Address: 113 E. Evans St., Suite A  
City, State Zip: West Chester, PA 19380  
Phone: 484-356-0940  
Website: www.ccfwg.org  
EIN: 76-0724241  
Year Founded: 1997  

ED/CEO E-mail: Michelle@ccfwg.org  
Board Chair Name: Judi Bell  
Grant Proposal Contact Name: Michelle Legaspi Sanchez  
Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: Michelle@ccfwg.org  
Grant $ Amount Requested: $2500

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:  
Date: 11.30.20

Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

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

Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Operating Budget</td>
<td>$ 516,615</td>
<td>$ 496,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff</td>
<td># 4.0</td>
<td># 4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Board Volunteers</td>
<td># 18</td>
<td># 19 (until 6/30/20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Committee Volunteers</td>
<td># 60</td>
<td># 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Active Direct Service Volunteers</td>
<td># 0</td>
<td># 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Volunteer Hours</td>
<td># 528</td>
<td># 560</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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.

- ChesCo Comm Fdn  
- Brandywine Health Fdtn  
- United Way ChesCo  
- ChesCo Dept Comm Devel  
- ChesCo Fund/W&Girls  
- Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn  
- United Way S ChesCo  
- ChesCo Dept Health  
- ChesCo Dept Human Svcs

Other significant funders:

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: SEE ATTACHED NARRATIVE PDF

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This Innovation &amp; Resiliency Fund Grant Request 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/  
  - 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
ChesCo NPO Innovation Resiliency Grant Request Form

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

1. **Mission:** CCFWG leads and unites the community through philanthropy and advocacy to ensure that women and girls have resources and opportunities to thrive.

**Vision:** Women and girls will have equality and security, making our communities stronger and more vibrant for everyone. CCFWG will be seen as a vital partner and leader, known for its boldness, connectivity, and creativity as it brings together and supports individuals and organizations around a shared commitment to the well-being and self-determination of women and girls.

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

3. **What population is served?** Women, girls and their families. In FY20, through our grantee partners’ and CCFWG’s programs, more than 18,000 lives were touched. Of this total, 14,500 were women and girls and 56% were people of color.

**How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID?** Because of the disproportionate impact of COVID on women - and even more so, women of color - they are overrepresented in the hardest hit industries such as healthcare, education, leisure, hospitality and other services industries, those jobs that put them on the frontline and/or at higher risk for infection. Women have become unemployed, underemployed or had to leave employment due to childcare, school challenges and health concerns. Also, they/their families have experienced or been subjected to the effects of increases in substance use/abuse, domestic and traumatic violence, evictions, need for emergency housing, and lack of affordable housing. Therefore the service numbers of many of our grantees have increased and immediate funds were requested to address critical and emerging needs to stay open safely, help meet technology needs for staff to work remotely and provide virtual client services, etc.

CCFWG’s program numbers have remained steady (e.g., Girls programs) and some have increased (e.g., our online free nonprofit and public education forums to address ongoing and emerging issues).

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

A number of our loyal individual donors, corporate and foundation funders prioritized giving to non-profits providing direct services due to increased demands due to COVID’s impact. CCFWG unfortunately did not receive some expected revenue this spring. These losses include reliable program-designated funding from family foundations (which has enabled us in the past to not pull from our operating expenses, which are generally used for staffing, research, program development and other expenses). We also lost some unrestricted funding that we usually raise through some cancelled activities of our annual Luncheon fundraiser as well as our Champions of Change event in October 2020. The good news is we decided not to cancel these events and go virtual, saving expenses of these normally in-person events, while still being able to raise awareness of issues and action related to gender equity and racial justice at an opportune time in history. Given monies were available that had already been budgeted for events, some could go to this purpose and expenses were cut.

Chester County Fund for Women and Girls
www.ccfwg.org
EIN: 76-0724241
Despite the intense learning curve of working remotely and new virtual platforms along with other demands on their time, staff were able to be resilient and creative in accomplishing a number of these goals.

**The total loss was $60,000.** While this did not impact our fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2020 – as we were able to cut expenses and avoid some expenses due to cancellation of in-person events and programs - the loss of these funds will impact some of our critical strategic goals planned for implementation in this current fiscal year that began on July 1. See below for details on these.

The COVID pandemic and racial turbulence have only exacerbated ongoing challenges and issues of our grantees and the populations and communities they serve. On the other hand, these phenomena are also providing experiences and opportunities for more positive and creative solutions.

We have responded to grantees’ ongoing and emerging infrastructure needs and increase in numbers and range of needs from those seeking their services, through allowance of previously approved grant dollars to be used as they see fit. In addition, in our commitment to be nimble and responsive to pressing needs in the community through our grantmaking, we have been awarding our Moving Her Forwards Impact funds to local organizations on the front lines of social impact. We also had received an additional major gift from a dedicated donor to add to these funds, though there has been much more need than we wish we had to address.

CCFWG staff began working remotely in mid-March, with varying degrees of access to computers and laptops, and valiantly continued to work despite the many challenges of COVID-19 in day-to-day work and personal life demands (e.g., juggling childcare, continue remote schooling for elementary-aged children as well as attending to needs of elderly family members).

5. What would this funding be used for?

These funds will help underwrite the expenses we incurred to pivot staffing to work remotely and expenses related to continuing our virtual Girls’ and other educational programs as well as fundraising events.

**How does this demonstrate innovation and resiliency in dealing with COVID impacts?**

Staff have been in close communication with our diverse stakeholders during these challenging times. We quickly pivoted to prioritize how to help address community needs; make decisions to invest in technology and learn new skills and programs while adapting to this new world and increase efficiencies; and, to resource volunteer and in-kind support and utilize external vendors when necessary to help with virtual educational and fundraising events.

**What would be the community impact of this anticipated funding?**

Given the impact of COVID on all workplaces – both for and non-profit – CCFWG would be able to continue adapt to and work towards future sustainability by going “phyrtual” (hybrid of physical and virtual) while continuing to be a leader and convener on behalf of supporting Chester County women and girls in getting the
support and resources they need to thrive. This includes continuing to support our grantees’ critical work and offering our own programming in new ways as well as achieving efficiencies and using resources wisely.

**Why is it important to fund this now?**

With a number of important initiatives already in process this fiscal year (such as our Blueprint report, Compass pro bono consultation for strategic planning for the next 1, 3, 5 and 10 years and celebration of our 25th anniversary, this funding will allow us to use other funds towards staffing and operations, especially given the unknown future impact of the pandemic on individual, corporate and other funding sources.

6. **How much funding is sought?** $2,500

**How does this compare to your annual operating budget and this years’ projected deficit?**

It’s about 12% of an expected 4% overall deficit of our total operating budget.

**What is the expected timeframe for use of funds?**

From when approved to end of fiscal year (June 30, 2021).