

### **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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**Chester County Nonprofit  
Innovation & Resiliency Fund  
Grant Request Form**

**Contact Information**

Nonprofit Org Name: Hope Beyond Borders, Inc.	ED/CEO Name: Steven Wilson
Address: 310 E. Chestnut St.	ED/CEO E-mail: Steve@hopebeyondborders.org
City, State Zip: Coatesville, PA. 19320	Board Chair Name: Interim: Steve Wilson
Phone: 610-384-2575	Grant Proposal Contact Name: Keith Wilburn
Website: HopeBeyondBorders.org	Grant Proposal Contact E-mail: kjwilburn@hotmail.com
EIN: 27-0399912	Grant \$ Amount Requested: \$40,000
Year Founded: 2009	

*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: Steven Wilson	Date: 11/24/2020
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**Nonprofit Field/s of Interest**

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

Figures	Current	PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)
Annual Operating Budget	\$420,380	\$395,380
Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	10.71	8.21
# Board Volunteers	7	7
# Committee Volunteers	42	42
# Active Direct Service Volunteers	115	190
Annual Volunteer Hours	5,200	8,910

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brandywine Health Fdtn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	United Way ChesCo	ChesCo Dept Comm Devel
<input type="checkbox"/>	ChesCo Fund/W&Girls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn	<input type="checkbox"/>	United Way S ChesCo	ChesCo Dept Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other significant funders:					ChesCo Dept Human Svcs

No	Yes	Federal Single Audit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is your nonprofit subject to a federal single audit (formerly known as the OMB Circular A-133 audit)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, did your nonprofit's most recent federal single audit disclose any issues?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, have these issues been adequately addressed?

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

1. **Mission**

Hope Beyond Borders – Coatesville Kids to College

Coatesville Kids to College mission is to provide academic, emotional and spiritual empowerment to children and youth in Coatesville, PA from pre-K to college.

2. **What geographic area is served?**

City of Coatesville

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

We target children and youth who are living below the Federal Poverty Level and who need academic support. Our preschool had to cut enrollment by half to create a COVID safe environment for students. Our student-led fundraising initiative and social enterprise, Soap for Hope, closed for six months due to COVID restrictions. Our seven student interns returned to operating Soap for Hope in October.

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

COVID-19 has impacted the families we serve in multiple ways. Many have had reduced hours at work or have lost jobs due to shutdowns or inability to care for their children while working. Our organization has received funding from the Brandywine Health Foundation, United Way of Southern Chester County, and the Chester County Community Foundation which has been utilized to provide rental assistance, utility assistance, and food support for families whom we serve. In addition, throughout the spring and summer we partnered with Chester County Food Bank, Highland Orchards, and Fiorenza's Food for Friends (F4) to collect and weekly distribute food for our families who needed supplemental food. Another significant impact we have seen is that many of our families and students are struggling to keep up academically due to schools moving to virtual learning. Many of the families we serve are single parents with multiple children, and it is a major hardship for them to try to provide academic supervision and support and provide financial support for the family. Since children aren't getting the support they need, many of our students were falling behind academically. To provide support during the summer we redesigned our traditionally full-day summer camps and instead had daily two-hour blocks for groups of 6-8 children where they could spend time working on academics and hands on learning activities. The shorter time and smaller groups of children were implemented to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Our most dramatic response to the issue of academics has been to transform our after-school program into a full-day virtual learning center at the start of the school year for the Coatesville Area School District on August 30. In our virtual learning center, our students spend the full day at our program completing their online classes in a COVID safe environment with staff and volunteers to support them. We provide virtual learning for four different groups of students: Kindergarteners, 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> graders, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders and 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> graders. At our virtual learning center, students get free breakfast and lunch which is delivered by the school district daily, get support to ensure they are in their virtual classes on time and help with any technology difficulties, and they receive help with their on-line assignments. We have seen repeatedly that without this support many students are not able to competently navigate online learning and fall behind academically.

In addition to the Virtual Learning Center, we also reopened our full-day preschool in September making some significant changes to ensure the safety of the children. We cut our class sizes in half so that we could provide better social distancing, and much of our programming takes place at students' assigned tables rather than students moving to different stations throughout the room. This enables us to ensure that students don't share items and to control how close the children get to one another. In addition, each table has a plastic divider in the center so that children sitting across from one another do not spread germs.

Our organization has also responded in innovative ways with our fundraising initiatives, shifting five live fundraising events to online events over the past seven months. Our spring banquet and silent auction shifted to a spring virtual event and summer online auction, our November 5K Cider Run was held virtually and we shifted our fall banquet and auction to a virtual event and online auction. Our student-led fundraising initiative, Soap For Hope, was canceled for

six months due to the need for close proximity of students when managing the shop and risk of exposure. Soap for Hope re-opened in a COVID-safe environment late October.

**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?**

The funding would be used for us to continue to operate our virtual learning center and our COVID-safe full day preschool. The virtual learning center is innovative in that it is a program we had never done before and had no models to look at since we are not aware of other virtual learning centers that were open at the start of the school year in the county. We had been running after-school programs for the past seven years, so to change our programming from a three hour a day program to an eight hour a day program daily took some creativity and financial resourcefulness. We made this change because we saw that the greater need was for supervision and academic support throughout the day rather than supplemental support at the end of the school day. It shows resiliency because our traditional after-school program and traditional preschool became irrelevant during this season, since they were not able to support the needs of the families and children we serve. By transforming our preschool to be COVID-safe, and creating the virtual learning center, we were able to continue to provide meaningful services to our families rather than simply shutting down.

The impact on the community is that parents are getting the support they need to go to work during the day and provide for their families, while their children get the academic support that they need. It is important to fund this now because there is currently a crisis for low-income families that is largely being overlooked. While there has been an emphasis on financial support from the county, one of the greatest needs is academic support and child support for single and working parents who now must also manage multiple children's education at home due to virtual learning. For many parents there is not the time, education, or in many cases, proficiency in the English language needed to help their children to successfully manage online learning. Many children in families that are below the Federal Poverty Level are missing online classes, not completing their online work, and are therefore falling further behind grade level. It appears that online learning will continue through most of the school year, and without the support we are providing many children will fall significantly behind, and the school system is not adequately equipped to help these students get caught up when they return to school. The long-term impact is that it will affect these children's futures if they are not able to stay at grade level. For parents, it affects their ability to financially provide for their families and create a stable household.

**6. How much funding is sought? How does this compare to your annual operating budget and this years' projected deficit?**

We are requesting \$40,000 to ensure our students and their families continue to receive the services needed to succeed through this challenging season.

Our student-led fundraising initiative, Soap for Hope, began the year with a projected income of \$24,900 but is now projecting an 60% deficit (\$15,000) as a result of the COVID-19 closure from March through October. We are projecting an additional \$5,000 deficit due to reduced donor commitment as a result of a less stable economy, leaving us at an anticipated \$20,000 deficit in our 01/01/2020 pre-COVID budget.

To sustain our full day virtual program, we increased staffing and hours from one after-school director and three part-time program managers to a full-time director and three full-time program managers. In our full-day preschool, we reduced enrollment by half but had to keep the same number of teachers to provide a safe environment, which means our tuition was also cut in half. Our tuition does not cover the cost of the preschool; however, it contributes. The anticipated amount needed to make up for this increase in program spending and decrease in income through the end of the school year is \$25,000.

The deficit in our pre-COVID budget and our increased services leaves us with a current total anticipated deficit of \$40,000

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

December – May 2021