Background/Eligibility
The Community Foundation’s COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund provides flexible resources to Chester County nonprofits that are disproportionately impacted by coronavirus and the economic consequences of this outbreak. This is designed as a flexible short-term response fund to provide relief for a variety of unexpected costs. We envision three funding priority levels:

- **Front Line Grants** fund community-based nonprofits that have increased demand for services due to COVID-19. These nonprofits have deep roots in community and a strong track-record serving people who are immediately and disproportionately suffering from this crisis. This includes services to financially vulnerable people who work in industries without sick leave &/or health care; homeless people; and health-challenged vulnerable people. Grants are intended to complement the work of public health officials and expand local capacity to address acute needs of the outbreak as efficiently as possible. These grants are NOT of the scale to support larger public institutions that are strained by increased demand for services. Examples of the types of nonprofits in most need of Front Line Grant Support, as service numbers rise: community-based health clinics; food bank & food pantries; meal delivery programs; homelessness programs.

- **Service-Challenged Grants** fund nonprofits that are modifying their in-person service delivery modes extremely rapidly due to COVID-19, and need assistance to do so. These nonprofits likely need additional assistance to upgrade sanitation protocols and obtain cleaning supplies & service personnel. This includes: youth centers, recreation centers, child care, senior services, adult day care, community-based education programs.

- **Collateral Damage Grants** fund nonprofits facing extreme difficulty because of lost revenue due to closures and cancellations, as well as other challenges.
In a few brief paragraphs, please explain:

1. **What geographic area is served?** *(If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served)*
   All of Chester County and adjacent counties are served. The farm is open to the public at no cost 7 days a week 365 days a year from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

2. **What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**
   Our foundation serves horse owners of any kind. We currently have 80 retired equines of all breeds and occupations and a waiting list of over 300. 20% of our residents have been rescued from abusive situations by LAPS or the SPCA or other like organizations. Of the non-horse owning public we serve all animal lovers, those who wish to just spend time in the countryside, families with young children who delight in coming to the farm to feed and pet the horses, and several Special Education institutions who bring their residents to see, work with and interact with the horses. Covid 19 has shut down all of our large in-person fundraising activities which brought thousands of visitors and supporters to Ryerss each year. In addition many of our small donors have suffered loss due to the pandemic. We felt it was important to respond to the pandemic by keeping the farm open to all visitors, free of charge, so they have a safe environment in which to bring their families and “get out of the house”. We observe all CDC regulations and state laws and recommendations for social distancing and number of visitors indoors. However to do so, we have had to borrow against our investments to keep the farm running and all the employees paid.

3. **How much funding is sought? How does this compare to your annual operating budget? What will the funding be used for? What is the expected timeframe for use of funds?**
   Any amount would be greatly appreciated. Our animal welfare operation alone cost $1,131 a day. Any grant from CCCF will go for the feeding (we grow all our own hay, but must purchase “senior feed” and supplements) and veterinary care for the horses and would likely be spent within a few months of receipt.

Please email grants@chescocf.org
   ___x__ This Brief COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request
   ___x__ Copy of annual operating budget or most recent audit
   ___x__ 501c3 determination letter

Request letters will be posted on the Community Foundation’s website, in order to share with fund advisors, donors, grant panelists, and other funding sources. Grants will be processed a few times monthly. We estimate mini-grants will range from $500 to $5000.

Please direct general questions & inquiries about the Rapid Response Mini-Grants to grants@chescocf.org.
Beth, Steph, or Kevin will answer you.