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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Contact Information

Nonprofit Org Name: A Haven
ED/CEO Name: Michelle Noble
Address: 623 North Pottstown Pike
ED/CEO E-mail: michelle@ahaven.org
City, State Zip: Exton, PA 19341
Board Chair Name: Mary Ann Hughes
Phone: 610 – 930-8907
Website: www.ahaven.org
EIN: 81-3342825

Grant Proposal
Contact Name: Michelle Noble
Website: www.ahaven.org
E-mail: michelle@ahaven.org

Grant $ Amount Requested: $41,800
Year Founded: 2017

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: Michelle Noble
Date: 11/20/2020

Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

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

Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Operating Budget</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ 156,467</td>
<td>$ 198,280</td>
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| Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff | # 2 |
| # Board Volunteers | # 7 |
| # Committee Volunteers | # 2 |
| # Active Direct Service Volunteers | # 5 |
| Annual Volunteer Hours | # 1,920 |

Annual Volunteer Hours: # 1,920

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 |
| Brandywine Health Fdtn | |
| ChesCo Fund/W&Girls | X |
| Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn | |
| United Way ChesCo | |
| United Way S ChesCo | |
| (Other significant funders: | |
| ChesCo Dept Comm Devel | |
| 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)? |
| X |
| NA |
| If yes, did your nonprofit’s most recent federal single audit disclose any issues? |
| NA |

| if yes, have these issues been adequately addressed? |
| NA |

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 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:

| This Innovation & Resiliency Fund Grant Request cover sheet & brief narrative |
| Current annual operating budget & most recent audit |
| 501c3 determination letter |
| 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
ChesCo Community Foundation
28 W. Market Street, The Lincoln Building
West Chester, PA 19382
www.chescocf.org
grants@chescocf.org  610.696.8211
Mission

Our Mission is to partner with grieving families by providing support, outreach to the community, education, and hope.

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

A Haven serves all of Chester County.

What population is served?

A Haven serves children 3-18 years of age and their respective caregivers/family. We also partner with our local schools as a resource to education school staff & personnel how to best support grieving students and their families.

How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID?

Our service numbers have remained steady throughout the pandemic, though we did see a drop in inquiries in the months of March and April. The impact we have seen the most by COVID is how families are grieving due to isolation and many death-rituals being put on hold.

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

First, and foremost COVID-19 is having a significant impact on the grieving families we serve. Grief is isolating as is and can be intensified when practicing social distancing. With that at the forefront of our mind within the first week of the national shutdown in March we showed resilience & innovation by successfully transitioning to a virtual setting. We knew that our families still needed support even while we were unable to hold our traditional groups. We set up online resources for families where we provided weekly newsletters to families that support grief in the home as well as coping strategies. We also transitioned to a virtual model to make sure that families who were desperate for support still had access to our peer to peer groups virtually. We came up with a best practice and family-centered approach to engage all ages and connect all grieving families to each other to lower feelings of isolation; a common feeling in grief and exacerbated by the pandemic. We have and are currently working closely with our local school counselors to find the best way to support their grieving students while they have transitioned to a hybrid learning model. We are currently hosting online support groups for students in collaboration with the school counselor.

We not only continued our groups, but also added to what we offered, knowing that a virtual model would not meet everyone’s needs. We saw additional challenges grieving families were facing, so we knew we needed to offer more specialized support. We called them “Individual Family Sessions.” These are tailored to the family and or a family member. They are not counseling, however these sessions focus on normalizing, equipping, and educating family in healthy communication (which has been shown to lessen grief), and empowering the caregiver to lead their family well. The number one determining factor on how children grief- is how their adults grieve. It is necessary for us to empower the caregivers to best impact the life of a grieving child. These free sessions offered to our families have been well received and families have been so thankful for the in-person support for their children. Each session allows us to introduce our services, allows children to feel comfortable and willing to try a virtual group, as well as much needed grief education and reassurance for grieving parents/caregivers. Almost all of our families that have experienced a Family Session have joined our virtual groups. Research shows evidence-based interventions as well as creative virtual means of support are necessary to bridge the gap between the pandemic and the aftermath in which A Haven is committed to be available to grieving children and their families and provide this support for Chester County and beyond. (Eisma, et. al 2020).

In addition to the impact our families have faced, our finances have been impacted by COVID-19. In April, we had to cancel Hope for A Haven in which we had hoped would bring in $25,000 - $45,000. We received about $10,000 in Covid-19 relief grants as well as a Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan of $16,900. We focused our efforts to our Annual Give Grief Hope campaign in August, knowing that this would be our only fundraiser in 2020. This campaign model has been innovative in it’s peer to peer campaign model. Our community, valuing A Haven’s mission and vision rallied around us. We surpassed our $50,000 goal to raise over $63,000. This was all due to innovation, using virtual and social media platforms efficiently, and the cultivation of generous support of our community. It was clear they valued A Haven’s
mission and saw the importance to our sustainability, especially during a pandemic and the needs that will be present in the aftermath.

A Haven developed a COVID-19 Task Force to make sure we were COVID compliant. We focused our efforts on what we could do to make sure we were able to have staff work in our offices safely and hold our individual family sessions. We spent $1,800 plus on reorganizing our space to be COVID compliant. All of our supplies needed to be placed in plastic, lidded containers to allow for effective disinfection. Doored cabinets were purchased for storage of materials, hand sanitizer, professional grade disinfectant wipes, aerosol spray and fogging materials were purchased. All of this allowed us to meet with individual families, coming to A Haven for support for the first time. All of these supplies allow us to do this.

**What would this funding be used for?**

The funding would be used to allow us to prepare adequately for the anticipated influx of grieving families we expect over the next 6 months to 2 years. Our numbers of families served have seen consistent growth since our beginning in 2018. We typically see a mid-high percent of returning families. The projected growth rate in 2021, which is somewhat conservative, given the environment and other factors like delayed grief, is around 13.5%. We expect to see a similar pattern for 2020 in 2021 however flipped, calendar-wise, with COVID-limitations for the first half-to-three-quarters-of-the-year and evening out towards the end of the year. **Our projected growth in 2021 would be 205 families served, with 67 new families (Please see our attached graph).** These numbers are important to note because they are conservative and do not include any additional potential families who experienced a death in the year 2020 and due to delayed and prolonged grief (as research reveals) will be reaching out in 2021 and 2022.

It costs around $1,500 to support one family over the course of one year. If we are expecting to see a conservative number of projected 67 new families in 2021, that would put us at a cost of $100,500 to support these NEW families to A Haven. This is a significant cost and addition to our budget for the 2021 budget. *(Please see our estimated 2021 budget).*

**Safety: PPE - $1,800**

Safety of our team and our families is very important to us, we need PPE to continue to ensure the safety of our team in our offices.

**Strategic Plan- $8,000**

A Haven is dedicated to being a reliable and trustworthy resource in our community. It is important that as we raise funds we also make sure we have a structure in place to ensure we are sustainable. Due to being a young organization and experiencing a decrease of funding in 2020, we were unable to invest in a strategic plan. This was a goal for 2020 and had applied for a grant. We were unable to obtain funds. We have prioritized this for the year 2021 to ensure A Haven’s mission is sustainable and can grow as the needs of the community grow.

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

The funding requested will be used to help us continue to be innovative and resilient by preparing for what we believe as an organization is in our future. We talk to our families about resilience a lot. In fact, research shows that resilience is built over time and in tough circumstances. We are dedicated to model this for our families as well. Our efforts in 2020 proved our resiliency, from finding creative and innovative programming remaining consistent in our support to grieving children and families, to capitalizing on our virtual fundraiser to ensure our sustainability to the community. We must continue to offer these services and to be equipped and ready for the growing needs in our Chester County community. Data is starting to anticipate there will be an increase of prolonged grief disorder (PGD) *(Eisma, et. al 2020).* Traumatic, disenfranchised, and chronic griefs in the aftermath of COVID-19 will become a major health concern. *(Kokou-Kpolou et. al, 2020).* PGD may be on the rise due to isolation, community trauma, stress, anxiety, interruptions in rituals and community mourning. The lack of rituals and community mourning which assist in supporting survivors, such as funerals which may make the grieving process complex, adding additional factors of stress, anger, and anguish.
for family members. The Covid-19 pandemic has led to delayed grieving processes, until grieving family and friends can reach closure. Not only are individuals experiencing the death of one family member, “but imagining having lost several relatives while being in lockdown or in quarantine at such a crucial moment, shows how this could bring people to the breaking point of their mental health” (Fernández, Gonzalez, 2020). This research is important because it speaks to the overwhelming need to be prepared and equipped to meet the needs of Chester County. Deferred grief and the inability to find closure confirms why our numbers have been lower since March, knowing that grievers have been faced with many other challenges, such a job loss, online schooling, etc.

When the pandemic is under control, we believe that we will see an overwhelming number of families reaching out for support. **A Haven would be remiss if we did not prepare for the influx of families coming our way. Along with national research and data from family grief centers around the country we believe families experiencing prolonged grief (in 2020) will reach out to us once the pandemic is under control (within the next 6 months to 2 years).** Therefore, our grief numbers will be doubled if not more than what they were in 2019 as A Haven is growing and being recognized as a vital service for the community.

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

The impact would be that we are adequately prepared to continue the support we are providing during the pandemic and able to welcome the anticipated influx of grieving families into our nest. If we have enough funding and newly recruited volunteers and staff, we will NOT have to resort to a waitlist or turn people away, which in turn would exacerbate prolonged grief disorder and increase feelings of isolation.

Our numbers of families served have seen consistent growth since our beginning in 2018. We typically see a mid-high percent of returning families. The projected growth rate in 2021, though conservative, given the environment and other factors like delayed grief, is around 13.5%. We expect to see a similar pattern for 2020 in 2021 however flipped, calendar-wise, with COVID-limitations for the first half-to-three-quarters-of-the-year and evening out towards the end of the year. **Our projected growth in 2021 would be 205 families served, with 67 new families (Please see our attached graph).** These numbers are important to note because they are conservative and do not include any additional potential families who experienced a death in the year 2020 and due to delayed and prolonged grief (as research reveals) will be reaching out in 2021 and 2022.

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

It is important to fund this now so we can adequately prepare for the influx of families and continue to offer consistent and comprehensive grief support to our current children and families we are serving right now. COVID-19 and the impact on our community is still here. Funding will support our effort to prepare for the future as well as make sure we are also available and supporting families who are already asking for support. Safety and consistency is important when working with grieving children and families, as their whole world has been turned upside down. We are committed to being a safe consistent place for our families, even while our surrounding environment may not seem to be safe. To do this we need funding to divide our efforts on both fronts, future planning and preparation and supporting our current families and their needs well.

**How much funding is sought?**

We are seeking **$41,800.**

**$33,500** - This would support 22 families for a year (⅓ of the total number of new families projected to come to A Haven in 2021).

**$1,800** – PPE, Zoom $30/month, new cabinets, fogger (we have been borrowing a fogger) & Disinfectant wipes.

**$6,500**- help towards a strategic plan.
How does this compare to your annual operating budget and this years’ projected deficit?

We are in a 21% budget currently. With the support of Covid-19 relief grants and our very successful Give Grief Hope Campaign in August we will not be ending 2020 in a deficit.

What is the expected timeframe for use of funds?

The timeframe for use of these funds is 6-8 months.

References:

