CCCF COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grants
Per IRS Regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax exempt organizations with 501(c) (3) certification & cannot be individuals.

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.
Date: February 6, 2021

**Contact Information**

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**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)**

   We serve the areas of Chester County, Southeastern Pennsylvania including Philadelphia and Lancaster, Southwestern New Jersey including Camden, New York City, NY and some areas of the rural south (ex: Alabama).

2. **What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**

   We serve two sets of populations:
   
   1) We are an animal welfare organization and serve homeless dogs and the shelters who seek to save these dogs, giving them a second chance.

   Animal shelters play a role in communities to control the homeless dog population and help dogs who can no longer be cared for by their owners. They rely on rescue organizations, like ours, to pull dogs to make space for new strays and surrenders.

   Our rescue organization is unique in that we have the experience and facility to care for traumatized females who were used as a breeding machine, pregnant dogs and her puppies, seniors and special needs dogs. We also have the network to transport dogs from high volume kill shelters in the south to our facility. Moreover, we primarily serve parts of Pennsylvania that are not too far from Chester County.

   2) People in the Chester County community who want to adopt them.

   **COVID-19 Impact:**

   We are impacted in several areas:

   1) Lack of volunteers. We currently have 36 dogs and no volunteers who can assist with the care of these dogs on site. Due to Covid, for safety purposes volunteers are not available to work onsite. All care is provided by myself and my partner/husband.

   2) Staff shortages at shelters around the country due to lack of volunteers and Covid sickened staff. Staff shortages make it difficult to care for the pre-Covid dog population levels. The reliance on rescue organizations, like ours, is greater during the Covid pandemic.

   3) Reduction in donations from the public.

   4) Increased volume of unwanted dogs in the shelters. News and social media have publicized the increased demand for foster and dog adoptions, especially puppies from puppy mills. However, there is a population of dogs excluded from this; the unwanted large dogs who are seniors, pregnant females or females who can no longer breed. Adding to this subset, are the dogs surrendered to shelters by owners with Covid who can no longer care for them.

   5) The increased demand for dog adoptions has resulted in Angel’s Retreat having an adopter waiting list of over 400 people at this time.
Our response:

1) Despite #1, 2 and 3 above, we have responded to #3 by pulling as many of these dogs as space allows, from the Lancaster PA puppy mills, Philadelphia, NYC and Camden city shelters and rural shelters in the geographic areas we serve.

2) We have also responded to #4 by providing the medical care and socialization needed to make the dogs adoptable to meet the demand.

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?

1) Since the start of COVID, grant fund availability has been scarce for small nonprofits at this time, the little funding received to date has been through small Facebook donations. We appreciate this opportunity to apply for the COVID grant. We are seeking a collateral damage grant in the amount of $4,000.

2) This request is 3% of our $120k annual operating budget.

3) The need is urgent, we have 36 dogs, of which almost all require medical attention and funding. Specifically, the funds from this grant will be used for the medical care for the dogs as follows: vaccines ($30/dog), microchip($7/dog), spay/neuter($100/dog), mass removal ($600+/dog).

4) The funds would be used within the next 3 to 6 months.

Moreover, I would like to share some photos of dogs who were in our care, who were adopted by community members of Chester county.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.
Please email grants@chescocf.org

___ This Brief COVID-19 Rapid Response Mini-Grant Letter of Request
___ Copy of annual operating budget or most recent audit
___ 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, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.