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.
COVID-19 Rapid Response
Mini-Grant Letter of Request

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)**
   SILO’s work focuses on the southernmost part of Chester County, primarily Oxford and the surrounding area. Despite Chester County being a relatively wealthy county, the Oxford area has an above average number of households struggling financially.

2. **What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?**
   SILO works with a variety of people, including those with mental illness, limited mobility, addictions, single parents, senior citizens, immigrants, unemployed, underemployed, homeless and formerly incarcerated individuals. We also help those who are mentally or financially stable and simply in need of friendship and support.

   Many of our friends live below the poverty level and almost all are below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold for Chester County. Our friends, who were already struggling to hold on to financial stability, are feeling the financial effects of COVID. Lost jobs and wages are hitting these hourly and part-time employees hard, as few have financial reserves built up to support themselves during this disruption. Many who are maintaining their jobs, work in industries that don’t offer work-from-home options and are risking their health to maintain employment.

   COVID-19 has limited face to face interactions with our friends in need. We adapted and created a new program called **Delivering Hope**. We deliver groceries, meals and supplies to families experiencing financial loss related to COVID. We have partnered with local restaurants, who are struggling due to shutdowns and other limitations, and order meals or purchase gift cards for our friends in need. This multiplies the impact of your gift as we support not only our friends who are struggling, but also local businesses.

   As more and more SILO families contract COVID, we find it is helpful to reach out to determine their specific needs. We want to ensure their needs are met so they remain safely quarantined at home and reduce the spread of COVID. To this end, we purchase the groceries or household items they need at that time (lots of soup and crackers!). As people experience the isolation and physical malady of even mild cases of COVID, we want them to maintain hope and know they are not alone. We are finding this comfort and support is helping friends recover quickly and make safe choices while they are sick.

   **Delivering Hope** continues to evolve based on the changing needs in our community. We continue to partner with key nonprofits in our area, including the Chester County Food Bank, to ensure families have food in their cupboards, despite financial setbacks.

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?**

   We are requesting $4,000 for various aspects of **Delivering Hope**. Our annual budget is $205,000 and this represents 2% of our budget. The funding would be used in the following ways:
• $2,000 for meals or gift cards purchased from local restaurants and delivered to friends needing food and connection
• $2,000 for groceries and supplies purchased and delivered to families who are COVID-positive

In light of the uncertain timeline of the COVID-19 outbreak, we are preliminarily planning to having the Delivering Hope program in place for at least 5 more months and will divide the resources over that period. If the timeline becomes abbreviated, we will use any remaining funds to further help the most vulnerable in our community as they re-stabilize after COVID.

Please email grants@chesocf.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@chesocf.org.
Beth, Steph, Cierra or Kevin will answer you.