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.
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)

LCH serves southern Chester County, from Kennett Square to Oxford and Nottingham. We have three locations: our Kennett Square headquarters, our expanded Oxford Health Center, and our West Grove specialty care site, which is home to our Dental Center, our Women’s Health Center, and our Pediatric Center.

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

LCH has been a front line responder from the earliest days of the pandemic. Our patient population, consisting primarily of low-income Latinos, has been especially hard hit by the pandemic. Many have lost jobs, or continue to work and/or live in unsafe conditions because they can afford no other option. Some have become ill and unable to work for periods of time. Many more are dealing with children at home, the absence of childcare options, fears of eviction, and worsening anxiety and depression.

LCH offers our patients a continuing medical home, making sure they have a trusted place to safely obtain routine care despite the ongoing pandemic. We offer telemedicine as an option for patients who prefer not to come in person. Since May 2020, we have been conducting COVID-19 testing for our patient population, both at LCH and out at local mushroom farms. Since January, we have started to vaccinate our patients and the larger community. In addition, LCH conducts ongoing education about how to stay safe during the pandemic, how to take care of your physical and mental health despite the challenges, and how to sign up for vaccination when you are eligible.

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?

LCH is requesting $5,000 to cover the wages of staff we want to hire to help us conduct vaccination clinics at area mushroom farms. Throughout the winter, we have been vaccinating eligible individuals at our Kennett Square site, using our existing staff to hold the clinics, which are usually on evenings and weekends. As we look ahead to category 1-B opening (which includes farmworkers), we are planning an ambitious schedule of mushroom farm vaccination clinics. However, we will need additional staff to run these events, especially since these will also often be held on weekends. We would like to hire and train 2-3 bilingual hourly staff members from the community who can participate in these events, leaving our other staff members free to focus on vaccination clinics on site at LCH. Although this investment of $5,000 is a small percentage of our budget for the current fiscal year (which is almost $10 million), it would be a highly impactful contribution, enabling us to vaccinate more vulnerable people and prevent burnout for our staff.
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, or Kevin will answer you.