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)**

   As the central hunger relief organization in our county, Chester County Food Bank (CCFB) serves a network of 120 partners county-wide to meet emergency food and nutrition needs while exploring long term solutions to chronic food insecurity. We serve all communities of the county with focus to areas of highest need.

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

   We assist all households experiencing food insecurity. Those we serve are seeing the vast impact of COVID-19 and now more than ever, we see families unable to put food on the table. Many households are finding themselves in need of a food pantry for the first time while those who were already in need are experiencing additional financial burdens. Those who are food insecure are not only hungry, but also lack the quality and diversity of nutritious foods needed to sustain a healthy lifestyle, leaving them at an elevated risk for stress and chronic diseases. We seek funding to support our mission in serving a community facing these heightened risks.

   Because of the unique circumstances relating to COVID-19, we are continuously monitoring and learning the most effective ways of ensuring access to real, healthy food for Chester County as food insecurity increases. Using county data and distribution maps, we identify areas of highest need and respond with greater focus and service to these areas. We are working with school districts to ensure children have enough food throughout the school year. We have increased our output to serve more people and supported the establishment of safe alternative options to the standard pantry service such as food pick-ups and outdoor distributions. We are assisting our pantries in obtaining the equipment and the supplies needed to sustain an increase in capacity. Through the investment in our partners' capacity, we strengthen our ability to provide enough food and prevent hunger. Our programs have also pivoted to accommodate safety guidelines and increase community outreach. Our education
programs have shifted to virtual formats and we have increased access points for program produce pick-ups. We introduced and distributed hundreds of “grow at home kits” in response to an increased interest in home gardening.

We have introduced *Sunshine Meals* as a key effort to address the food needs resulting from COVID. Our *Sunshine Meals* are frozen microwavable meals that are delicious and nutritional, often featuring fresh produce grown at our CCFB farm sites. As school districts struggled to provide student meals throughout the pandemic, our culinary team increased meal output to help fill this gap. We are working closely with Chester County’s school districts to ensure children have meals during the school year and summer. The meals are also available to those who are unable to prepare meals for themselves due to illness or disability. The *Sunshine Meals* have proven to be an effective way of ensuring the most vulnerable Chester County residents have access to healthy meals that are easily prepared.

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 seeking $5,000 to continue to expand our *Sunshine Meals*, extending our reach to more partner sites. In Fiscal Year 2020 we provided 13,500 meals through *Sunshine Meals*, *Meals on Wheels*, and *Simple Suppers*. Due to the growing need, we have already provided 61,000 meals during the current fiscal year. Additional funds will allow us to continue to increase our output and diversify our distribution outlets to serve as many households as possible. As we expand, we will include more schools, senior centers, food pantries, shelters, and other outreach organizations. We expect to use funds for the last quarter of our current fiscal year ending July 1, 2021. Funds will be used for food purchasing for meal production. Our organization’s annual budget is $6,990,701.

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, or Kevin will answer you.