

## CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

**One page only.** This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors.

Note: If Philanthropy Network's Common Grant Application is used, CCCF's **Summary Sheet MUST accompany application.**

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)

**Date 1/29/2021**

### Contact Information

Organization Name: Chester County Family Academy  
Address: 530 E Union Street Suite #2 West Chester, PA  
Phone: 610-696-5910  
Website: [www.ccfaschool.org](http://www.ccfaschool.org)  
Year Incorporated: 1997  
FEIN: 23-2920158

ED/CEO Name: Tara Webber  
ED/CEO E-mail: [webber@ccfaschool.org](mailto:webber@ccfaschool.org)  
Board Chair Name: Geeta Kapadia  
Board Chair Approval (check here):   
Primary Contact Name: Tara Webber  
Email: [webber@ccfaschool.org](mailto:webber@ccfaschool.org)

### Organization Information:

#### Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities       Environment/Animal Welfare       Education  
 Health       Human Services       Religion

**Mission:** Providing a community based hands-on, hearts-on, heads-on program for young learners and their families, struggling with financial challenges. Our school provides food, school supplies, clothes, and enrichment opportunities for our students.

**Geographic Area Served:** West Chester, PA: West Chester Area School District (WCASD).

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:** We have 72 students enrolled. Our students are 34% ESL population, 8% Spec. Education, 47% Hispanic, 43% Black, 2% White, 8% Other, and 82% Economically Disadvantaged and we do not receive Title I-funding due to our small size.

**Annual Budget \$** 1,376,198      10 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
63 % of budget for program expenses      7 # of Board Volunteers  
30 % of budget for administrative expenses      0 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
7 % of budget for fundraising expenses      20-25 # of Volunteer Hours  
100 % total

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** Local School Districts, Federal funding for lunch and Federal programs. State funding (grants), and private donors.

**Is this grant proposal for:** Capacity Building  or General Operating

### **If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:**

Mission, Vision & Strategy       Governance & Leadership       Partnerships & Collaborations  
 Fundraising, Development & Marketing       Technology      Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$7,500

## **II. CCFA'S CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

*Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.*

### **Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness**

Chester County Family Academy (CCFA) is an all-inclusive hands-on, hearts-on, and heads-on program of action and discovery. **CCFA** is a Pennsylvania Charter School located in Chester County, PA. The school was founded in August 1997 by an educator (Lorraine Andersen), a businesswoman/lawyer (Evelyn Walker), and a social service/human service provider (Miriam Wheeler) to carry on the vision of Richard and Sheila Stanford: “to provide a private school education to make a difference in the lives of children.” Chester County Family Academy, or CCFA, was one of the first six charter schools in Pennsylvania and was the first charter school to be renewed in the state. CCFA is in its 24<sup>th</sup> school year.

We are a tiny, family-oriented, and dedicated early elementary school who provides a private-school-style education that focuses on the whole child, experiential learning, and parent involvement. We always consider the whole child by learning about and connecting with the child's family, community, cultural background. We provide an experiential model of learning, which includes planning, producing, and pondering so our students are active and not passive learners. The connections with our families are strong and vital for the academic, social, and emotional successes of our children. CCFA's curriculum is aligned with PA's Common Core Standards and research-based techniques and curriculum serve as the foundation of instruction. Moreover, our biggest strength is teaching students how to read by using the Wilson Foundations reading program that is a multi-sensory and hands-on approach to reading. For science, we use a thematic, experiential curriculum that fosters engagement and the promotion of science inquiry. Our greatest joy is promoting the arts through programs such as African drumming, yoga, dance, musical literacy, martial arts, and Suzuki violin. Our academic curriculum promotes play, social emotional learning, and experiential learning. Additionally, during the 2017-2020 school years, our PA Future Ready data has surpassed the statewide average scores and achieved the statewide 2030 goals in English Language Growth and Attainment and Attendance. We are very proud of our state scores and we will continue to improve our academic program annually.

CCFA offers a community-based approach to learning, participating in a variety of partnerships with organizations and individuals throughout the community. At CCFA, we live our mission and vision daily. Our school's mission is “Providing a community based hands-on, hearts-on, and heads-on program for young learners and their families struggling with financial challenges”. Our vision states, “Providing a private-school-style education to students with limited resources”. CCFA stands out among other Charter schools due to our ability to help our families in need with clothing, food, technology, and school supplies. We also have a top-notch enrichment program that gives our students access to music, yoga, art,

dance, healthy cooking, martial arts, and physical education. We are partnered with the Chester County Food Bank so we can provide food boxes for every family.

At CCFA, our faculty and staff truly believe that students' lives can be changed by a community of caring adults who strive to make our students' dreams a reality. Our school thrives off of our many community partnerships and fundraising efforts. Our most notable partnerships and funders are with Chester County Food Bank, YMCA-Greater Brandywine, The Abele Foundation, West Chester Senior Center, CCIU, WCU, Villanova University, Darlington Arts Center, La Comunidad Hispana, Operation Warm, The Rotary Club of West Chester and several more.

In March 2020, when instruction stopped due to COVID-19, CCFA did not have the adequate technology for every student. Due to the rapid closure of school, CCFA was not prepared for implementing an online learning program and many students were not able to continue their education due to the lack of technology and financial resources. As a result, our students fell behind in reading, math, and social emotional growth. Additionally, some families had to pay for the cost of daycare so they could maintain employment. All families and staff were negatively affected by the pandemic but during the 20-21 school year, CCFA has made dramatic improvements to deliver a top-notch virtual academic experience to all students. Teachers were trained and well-prepared to offer wonderful and engaging instruction. CCFA staff were able to meet the needs of every learner. The major negative impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic were the academic and social emotional regression of our students. Our school applied to PDE's *Reopening of Schools Grant* to fully fund our online program, sanitization expenses, train our teachers how to be online educators, and provide online curriculum to meet the needs of every learner. We also applied for our annual food grant from The Abele Foundation and they gave us half of what they usually give us annually. The Abele Foundation will not be donating to our school anymore due to being a funder of colleges only. This will be a huge loss to our students and their families. This is one of the reasons why we are seeking this grant money.

The grant money that we are requesting from your organization will be used for maintaining our online program by providing online professional development for our teachers, supporting our enrichment program, providing essential resources for our families, and maintaining sanitization products. We are seeking these funds to provide more iPads and hotspots when enrollment increases as well. We will be able to provide basic needs for our families so we can continue to carry out our mission. Obtaining your organization's grant money will be a great way to supplement any monetary losses. Moreover, what separates our school from any other charter school is our amazing arts and athletics programs. Our students are able to travel into the community to attend swimming classes, perform in musical concerts, and attend various field trips. Our teachers promote hands-on learning in reading, math, writing, and science through the use of these programs. Without yearly generous donations from our local partners and

businesses, we would not be able to sustain our enrichment program. Every year we rely on specific grants and donations but due to the pandemic, the financial contributions that we are accustomed to have been limited.

The Chester County Family Academy-A Pennsylvania Charter School is always seeking new donors. We have relied on private donations and public grants to maintain our fabulous enrichment program, provide food for our families, donate clothes to our children, and buy school supplies for families annually. We care about the whole child--every aspect of our children's lives! We take pride in what we do, and we always try to meet the needs of every child, every day. I look forward to your reply to my grant proposal.

Best Regards,

Tara Webber, CEO