

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date: March 12, 2021

Contact Information

Organization Name: Domestic Violence Center of Chester County ED/CEO Name: Dolly Wideman-Scott, Ed.D.
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Year Incorporated: 1976 Primary Contact Name: Danielle Dougherty
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Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission:

The mission of the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County is to prevent, reduce, and remedy domestic violence in Chester County.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

We serve all of Chester County.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

We serve all victims of domestic violence and their dependent children in Chester County. In 2019/2020, DVCCC provided 4,230 shelter nights to 154 new adults and children, had 1,936 new recipients of services, and provided 12,476 counseling/advocacy hours. Of the 2,211 individuals served by DVCCC in that year, 89% identified as female, 9% identified as male, and 2% identified as transgender. DVCCC clients are not required to disclose their race or ethnicity. Of those who did disclose this information, 26% identified as White, 11% as Hispanic, 8% as African/African American/Caribbean, <3% as two or more races, and <1% as American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native-Hawaiian, or Pacific-Islander.

Annual Budget: \$2,267,594.00	28	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
83% of budget for program expenses	18	# of Board Volunteers
8 % of budget for administrative expenses	30	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
9 % of budget for fundraising expenses	240	# of Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>		

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD)

6 grants totaling \$1,020,600
Operations and Client Assistance

PCADV (Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence)

Core Operations: \$471,700
Civil Legal Representation: \$112,172

Culturally Specific/Services for Latinx Community: \$66,000

Coaching Boys Into Men Coordinator: \$85,980

COVID-19 Support: \$23,700

Philadelphia Foundation

General Operating: \$50,000

COVID-19 Purchases: \$60,000

United Way of Southern Chester County

Outreach Offices: \$45,680

Springbank Foundation (McNeil)

General Operating: \$35,000

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building ___ or General Operating x ?

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: \$25,000

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

History, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC) began as the YWCA Women's Resource Center (WRC), serving as an information and referral service for Chester County women. At that time, there was no organization in the area to which victims of domestic violence could be referred. As more and more women began reaching out to the WRC for help escaping their abusive situations, the directors of the WRC took it upon themselves to make those services available. They reorganized as the DVCCC in 1976. DVCCC has been accredited with the PANO Seal of Excellence since 2009. This certification is given to organizations that demonstrate strong fiscal and organizational leadership and board governance while adhering to PANO's Standards of Excellence: honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, trust, responsibility, and accountability. DVCCC is well-known and respected in the community, and we are proud of what we have achieved over the past few years. In 2018, we completed construction on four, one-bedroom apartments, which joined our thirteen, three-bedroom townhomes to comprise our Independent Living housing program. The same year, our CEO Dr. Dolly Wideman-Scott received the Harold Martin Leadership Award from the Exton Region Chamber of Commerce. In January 2019, we opened an outreach office at the Chester County Justice Center, giving us the ability to provide immediate legal services to previous or new clients.

Funding request

According to Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV), 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner in 2019. During that same year, 112 victims died in Pennsylvania in domestic violence incidents; 46% of those were killed by a current or former intimate partner. While no age, race, or socio-economic class is immune to domestic violence, we understand that queer, trans, and cis women and girls of color, indigenous women and girls, and immigrant women and girls face unique barriers to receiving help when in a domestic violence situation.

DVCCC utilizes an empowerment approach to provide services to survivors. We are the only organization in Chester County contracted by the PA Department of Human Services and PCADV to provide services solely to victims of domestic violence and their dependent children. Our free and confidential services are provided to all domestic violence survivors regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or age. By focusing on empowerment in everything we do, we collaborate with survivors to exert greater influence and control in their own lives. This is especially important when working with survivors from diverse populations as they may already be in a harmful power dynamic due to their race, gender, sexual orientation, or citizenship status.

We are respectfully submitting this grant request for \$25,000 in general operating support. DVCCC works to give all survivors power and access to the resources they need to live lives free from domestic violence. We do this through shelter and transitional housing programs; counseling and support groups; legal advocacy and representation; and public awareness and education.

Our housing programs address both immediate and long-term needs. While in housing, survivors are provided with resources for food, clothing, and other necessities as well as the full range of DVCCC's

other free services. DVCCC's counselors work with each survivor to create their safety plan and empower them to move on to permanent housing where they will continue to receive ongoing counseling and access to services. Our counseling services are trauma-informed and designed to empower survivors to increase their awareness of community resources, have strategies for enhancing their safety, and develop improved social support.

From our offices in the confidential main administrative building and in the Chester County Justice Center, DVCCC provides free legal advocacy and representation to victims of domestic violence. We have five legal advocates and three attorneys. Chester County has a diverse population with a large Spanish-speaking contingent. Four of our legal advocates are bilingual in Spanish and English which is invaluable in supporting our Latinx victims and their children as they navigate the arduous legal process. They also work closely with immigrant survivors, and our partnership with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) Pennsylvania has continued to address the needs of that group. In 2019, DVCCC served 98 new immigrant survivors, which far exceeded our projections for that year, demonstrating the continued need for services at the intersection of immigration and domestic violence.

Lastly, DVCCC provides domestic violence education, awareness, and training programs to schools, businesses, communities of faith, law enforcement, and medical personnel along with a wide range of community-based organizations. This includes our Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) and our Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM) program.

LAP is a statewide program that helps to identify victims of domestic violence who are at the greatest risk of being killed, for the purpose of getting them out of harm's way and encouraging them to contact a domestic violence shelter while the police are on the scene. DVCCC launched the initiative in Chester County in October of 2012 with two police departments (Coatesville and Oxford) serving as pilot programs. We currently have 38 local police departments, 2 university police departments, and the Chester County Sheriff's Department trained. In 2019/2020, 464 total screens were conducted in Chester County, with 277 victims found to be in high danger. There was a 36.4% increase in officers calling DVCCC's hotline after performing LAP screens since last fiscal year. 73% of high danger cases continued to use DVCCC's lifesaving services.

CBIM uses the power of sports to promote an environment of respect, integrity, and non-violence through high school athletes. DVCCC trains local high school coaches on implementation of the CBIM curriculum. The 12-week program fits into the sports season and provides each coach with a guide for addressing several important social issues through weekly conversations with their athletes. Topics covered include disrespectful behavior toward women and girls; technology and respect; understanding consent; relationship abuse; and modeling respect and equality.

These components come together to create a holistic continuum of domestic violence intervention, advocacy, and prevention.

DVCCC's services are measured through the utilization of qualitative and quantitative tools that track the duration, intensity, and frequency of services; collection times; and responsible staff. In addition to the forms developed by our state-wide organization PCADV, we utilize a best-practice client data tracking system called ETO (Efforts to Outcomes). These tools help us determine a survivor's level of satisfaction/success with the support and services we provide and the type and number of clients we serve. Internally, the results of this data aid us in identifying any changes we must make in order to provide the best, coordinated services to victims of domestic violence. The results are shared externally in our reports to funders and in our annual report.

Throughout this difficult year, DVCCC knew that we would have to rise to the specific challenges being posed to victims of domestic violence in the current social and political climate. Our leadership mobilized to ensure every staff member stood ready and committed to serving the unique needs of domestic violence victims as they endure the “triple pandemic” of COVID-19, racism, and economic insecurity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a perfect storm for the exacerbation of factors already inextricably linked with domestic violence. Stay-at-home orders put in place to protect the public left many domestic violence victims trapped with their abusers, isolating them from social support systems and other sources of potential assistance. Economic independence, which is a critical tool in the prevention of domestic violence, has been threatened by the job loss and unemployment caused by the pandemic. This has been especially true among women of color and immigrants. In response, our leadership developed a contingency plan to keep staff, volunteers, and participants safe. We have continued to operate 24/7. Direct service workers have been communicating with clients as much as possible via phone or computer but have also remained available in-person with safety measures in place. DVCCC arranged for families previously housed in our communal shelter to move to hotels to adhere to social distancing practices. Single individuals have continued to live in the shelter but reside in separate rooms. With grant funding from the CARES Act, we have been able to provide rent and utility assistance to clients. Legal representation has continued to be a necessity during this time. As the only organization in Chester County that provides free access to legal representation for the petitions of temporary PFAs, we have continued to appear in court in person to help client obtain temporary and final Orders.

We are grateful to have received extensive COVID-19 related funding this year, but we anticipate that this will have an effect on those funding streams for at least the next grant cycle. In addition, the pandemic has greatly impacted businesses, organizations, and communities of faith that are typically generous donors but are finding themselves in a difficult financial situation this year. General operating funds from the Chester County Community Foundation would help us in maintaining a consistent level of service provision, providing lifesaving resources for victims of domestic violence in Chester County.