

# AIP GRANT APPLICATION FORM



The AIP Fund, c/o Chester County Community Foundation  
28 W. Market Street  
West Chester PA 19382  
(610) 696-8211  
[grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org)

*Chester County*  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION [www.chescofc.org](http://www.chescofc.org)

## ***All Children Deserve a Good Life***

**Our grants focus on nonprofit programs that help children & youth deal with any/all of these issues:**

- 1. alleviate homelessness, hunger & poverty**
- 2. instill holistic health & well-being: physical, cognitive, emotional & social**
- 3. educate for academic and social excellence**

- Our aim is to develop resilient, self-sufficient children empowered with strong coping skills, so we help build families, groups, communities and a world where loving kindness towards all prevails.
- We fund nonprofit projects in and near Chester County, PA.
- 1, 2 and 3-year project requests are considered, with a plan of self-sufficiency after 3 years of funding.
- Proposals are welcome anytime throughout the year. Decisions are made monthly.
- Per IRS regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification. Applicants cannot be individuals.
- E-mail proposals are strongly encouraged to [grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org)
- Receipt will be confirmed by e-mail.
- Questions? Please contact Kevin Baffa at (610) 696-8211 or [grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org)

Thank you.

# AIP GRANT APPLICATION COVER SHEET

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

Date:

## Contact Information

Organization Name: Family Service of Chester County  
Address: 310 N Matlack Street  
West Chester, PA 19380  
Phone: 610-696-4900

Executive Director/CEO Name: Mark Butler  
Executive Director E-mail:  
mbutler@familyservice.us  
Board of Directors Chair Name: Rhoda McNitt

Website: [www.familyservice.us](http://www.familyservice.us)  
Year Incorporated: 1947  
FEIN: 231726329

Primary Contact Name: Tyler Changaris  
Primary Contact E-mail:  
tchangaris@familyservice.us

Have you received grant money from the Chester County Community Foundation in the past?

Yes  No  Not Sure

## Please indicate which of these AIP Fund priorities are embedded in your program:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Alleviate hunger	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alleviate homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alleviate poverty
<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emotional & mental well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social well being
<input type="checkbox"/>	Educate for social intelligence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Educate for academic success	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mindfulness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Creativity & problem solving	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## Mission: To promote the well being of individuals and families and to advocate for change

**Geographic Area Served:** Chester County; Based in West Chester, satellite offices in Coatesville, Kennett Square, Phoenixville, Oxford, and Exton

**Describe the number & type of children/youth to be served by this program annually: 33 children, ages 0-17**

## Resources:

\$ 15,000 How much grant funding do you seek from the AIP Fund?

\$ 289,084 What is your overall budget for this program?

\$ 2,544,820 What is your overall budget for this year?

30 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

11 # of Board Volunteers

90 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

500 # of Volunteer Hours

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** The following funders represent the five (5) largest funders for FY20: 1. City of Philadelphia, AIDS Activity Coordinating Office; 2. County of Chester, Department of Community Development; 3. City of Philadelphia, Office of Housing and Community Development; 4. United Way of Chester County; 5. Fastener System, Inc

**Grant Amount Requested from the AIP Fund @ Community Foundation \$** 15,000

**Proposal Summary (3-5 sentences):**

We respectfully request \$15,000 to assist families and children experiencing divorce or separation through our Kids Come First program over the next year. Kids Come First provides counseling to help minimize the negative impacts of high-conflict divorce/separation on children. We help parents create environments that support their children's healthy social and emotional development by teaching co-parents how to manage their intense emotions and problematic behaviors that negatively affect their children.

*Please describe briefly, 2 pages maximum.*

## **1-What are you trying to achieve with this program, and how does this resonate with your nonprofit's mission, other programs and track record?**

The Kids Come First program recognizes that in order for children to thrive, they require that their caregivers are able to provide consistent and attuned responses to their needs. When parents are going through high-conflict divorce/separation, their capacity to prioritize the needs of their children often diminishes. Children can get caught in the middle of parental conflict, taking on developmentally inappropriate roles that have long-lasting consequences.

This program encourages children's social and emotional development by supporting their parents in creating healthier family environments for their children. Our program, which includes classes in addition to co-parent counseling, helps parents understand ways that their behavior may impact their children, learn skills to regulate emotions, and practice more effective methods of communication. The result is reduced conflict between co-parents, leading to healthier home environments for children already undergoing a stressful transition.

According to the Harvard Center for the Developing Child, all of the research on child development leads to a consistent conclusion: the only sustainable way to improve outcomes for children is to build the capability of parents or caregivers. For this reason, our program focuses on building the capacity of co-parents during one of the most challenging periods of their children's lives. This directly promotes the well being and development of children.

Our mission is to promote the well being of individuals and families and to advocate for change. The changes that we help co-parents make promotes the social, emotional, and mental well-being of their children. Our co-parent classes also include instruction on use of mindfulness to regulate emotions and behavior. This program builds strong families, even when split between two households. We empower parents to raise resilient and self-sufficient children in the face of one of the most challenging experiences a family can go through.

Family Service of Chester County has a long track record of excellence, and a reputation of high quality care to all members of our community. The Kids Come First program falls under our Counseling Department, serving our community's changing needs for over 70 years. Our counselors are thoroughly trained and highly experienced in co-parent counseling. We meet regularly with Chester County Family Court masters and judges, who consistently provide positive feedback to us about this program, and consistently refer co-parents to us. We also receive consistent funding from the Chester County Bar Foundation, who recognize the effectiveness of our work on families going through Family Court.

## **2-How you will discern the impact and results of this program?**

Over the last year, we have developed more detailed and behaviorally focused measures of progress for co-parents. Upon enrolling in our program, co-parents complete the Co-Parenting Questionnaire, a self-assessment measuring the frequency of 24 negative and positive behaviors related to co-parenting.

After finishing their last co-parent counseling session, they complete the same assessment again in order to measure their progress in developing healthier co-parenting behavior patterns.

The types of behavior we are looking to see decrease include whether parents are asking their children to carry messages or to spy on the other parent, putting down the other parent, or over-involving the children in financial issues. We are also looking for an increase in behaviors such as regular communication about the children's needs, setting and respecting appropriate boundaries with the other parent, and identifying signs that the children may be having difficulty adjusting. When conducting closing assessments of co-parents, counselors are considering whether co-parents have shown progress in specific areas, each of which relate to parent behavior that directly effect the well being of their children.

Our annual goal is for 60% of parents to demonstrate progress in these areas. The parents assigned to Kids Come First by masters and judges in Family Court are typically assigned because they are the most difficult and contentious co-parents.

### **3-Why is it important to fund this now?**

The pandemic has placed added stressors on children and families. COVID-19 has significantly expanded the types of decisions that co-parents must make together around exposure and safety protocols, which presents special challenges for families experiencing high conflict divorce/separation.

Divorce/separation is complex and painful. Court masters, judges, and attorneys explicitly recognize the limitations of addressing co-parent conflict through legal proceedings, which is why they refer many high-conflict co-parents to us. These families need timely, professional counseling for the sake of their children. Parents going through a high-conflict divorce often find themselves behaving in ways that are dysfunctional and damaging to their children.

Our co-parents currently can experience a significant wait before they can be assigned to counselors. The additional financial support from your organization would allow us to dedicate more counseling hours toward the Kids Come First program, decreasing the wait for co-parents.

Our co-parent counseling program is unique in providing these services on a generous sliding scale. A divorce/separation can seriously impact families financially in a myriad of ways, including high court-related costs. Family Service priorities serving families who would be unable to afford services elsewhere. This is especially important at this moment, given how the pandemic has financially impacted the most vulnerable families the hardest.

### **III. ATTACHMENTS**

#### ***E-mail or mail this support information***

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations
3. Most recent annual report and financial statement, audited if available

4. Organizational operating budget, with actual results for prior FY and current FYTD
5. If multi-year funding is requested, detailed project budget for full program
6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.

- E-mail proposals are strongly encouraged to [grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org)
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