



AIP GRANT APPLICATION FORM

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

Chester County
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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@chescocf.org
- Receipt will be confirmed by e-mail.
- Questions? Please contact Kevin Baffa at (610) 696-8211 or grants@chescocf.org

Thank you.

AIP GRANT APPLICATION COVER SHEET

For an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date: 5/25/21

Contact Information

Organization Name: Camp Dreamcatcher Executive Director/CEO Name: Patty Hillkirk
Address: 148 W. State St. STE 104, Kennett Square, PA 19348 Executive Director/CEO E-mail:
phillkirk@kennett.net
Phone: 610-925-2998 Board of Directors Chair Name: Ginny Fineberg & Raynetta Adams
Website: <https://campdreamcatcher.org/> Primary Contact Name: Patty Hillkirk
Year Incorporated: 1999 Primary Contact E-mail: phillkirk@kennett.net
FEIN: 23-2980323

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

Yes X__ No__ Not Sure__

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

X	Alleviate hunger	X	Alleviate homelessness	X	Alleviate poverty
X	Physical well being	X	Emotional & mental well being	X	Social well being
X	Educate for social intelligence	X	Educate for academic success		
X	Mindfulness	X	Creativity & problem solving		

Mission: To provide free therapeutic and educational programs to HIV/AIDS impacted youth.

Geographic Area Served: Pa Counties: Chester, Delaware, Philadelphia, York, Lancaster, etc. and the states of Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Maryland

Describe the number & type of children/youth to be served by this program annually: 135 youth served annually between 5-17 years of age. 96% of the youth are People of Color (POC) and are HIV/AIDS infected themselves, have an HIV/AIDS infected family member, or have lost a family member to HIV/AIDS.

Resources:

\$ 2,000 per year How much grant funding do you seek from the AIP Fund?

\$ 108,000 What is your overall budget for this program?

\$ 419,300 What is your overall budget for this year?

1 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

10 # of Board Volunteers

250 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

13,000 per year and 240,650 over 25 years # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: The Julian A. & Lois G. Brodsky Foundation, Cabot Kjellerup Foundation, Philly AIDS Thrift, Rite Aid Foundation, Philadelphia Foundation.

Grant Amount Requested from the AIP Fund @ Community Foundation \$ 2,000 Multi-year funding

Proposal Summary (3-5 sentences): A grant will support the therapeutic and educational programs offered during our camp session August 22-28, 2021 for 120-130 youth. Over 250 counselors, medical personnel, professionals and community members will volunteer during the camp session.

AIP GRANT APPLICATION NARRATIVE

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?

Camp Dreamcatcher offers the only therapeutic camp program on the east coast, and over the past 25 years we have served 5,700 youth. All of our programs fulfill our mission of providing FREE therapeutic and educational programs to HIV/AIDS impacted youth.

Therapeutic and Educational Camp Sessions: We will transition back to in-person camp this summer! It will be great to see the children and volunteers at Camp Saginaw during the week of August 21-28, 2021.

CAMP WEEK PROGRAM GOALS:

1. To improve the physical and emotional health of the children. **Over 100 therapeutic sessions** (psychotherapy, music therapy, art therapy, yoga, mindfulness therapy, wilderness-based therapy and massage) will be offered during the camp week.
2. To offer educational sessions that explore issues, problems and concerns common amongst HIV/AIDS infected and/or affected youth. **Over 40 age appropriate educational sessions** will be provided on depression, HIV/AIDS, grief, eating disorders, body image, abuse, addiction, HIV medication compliance, leadership, teambuilding, conflict resolution, puberty education and a career readiness program.
3. To give the children and adolescents attending our programs the chance to feel free from the secret of HIV/AIDS and have fun – just like any other kids! We will provide **over 140 recreational programs**. These will include arts & crafts, archery, karate, swimming, fishing, hiking, go-kart racing, movies on giant blow up screens, miniature golf, dodge ball, basketball, horseback riding, dancing, cooking, paddle boating and much more!

We offer Progressive Leadership Opportunities starting at age fifteen, when the Senior Campers participate in the Wilderness-based Therapy Program. **Camper Quest** is a journey all 15-year-old Senior Campers participate in during the camp session. The 2020 Senior Campers will complete their Camper Quest in 2021. The **Leaders in Training Program** is offered during the camp session and provides a two-year track of leadership and life skills programming to 16 & 17-year-old campers.

This year, we are launching a new **Emerging Leaders Program**. The program charts a new path in Camp Dreamcatcher's leadership programming and provides an incentive for four young adults, who were previously campers, to move into advanced leadership roles in the organization. The program will offer a new way for young adults to stay engaged with Camp Dreamcatcher and become active participants in sustaining the mission of the organization. They will be matched with Mentors, and together will attend six leadership training sessions in the summer before participating in camp session in August.

Participants will be graduates of the Leaders in Training Program and the weekend Leadership Retreats. This program will increase the racial diversity of Camp Dreamcatcher's leadership team and will be the first program to offer stipends to participants to promote inclusivity by addressing socio-economic barriers to volunteerism. This transformative leadership program will give participants the opportunity to increase measurable skills, lead with confidence, face challenges with support and build resiliency and hope.

Programs are offered throughout the year and include the therapeutic camp session, weekend teen leadership retreats, mentoring programs, college scholarship program, emerging leaders' program, holiday adopt-a-family gift program, an emergency fund for families grocery gift card program and HIV/AIDS education and outreach.

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

Camp Dreamcatcher expands and adapts its programming each year to meet the changing needs of the children and families served by our programs. Strategic Planning Sessions are held at least once every two years, and in 2020, the Board of Directors and Staff made a commitment to expand the Diversity, Equity and

Inclusion of our programming by identifying specific DEI goals for 2021. Our DEI goals include an equity & culture audit of the organization to be facilitated by **S'more Melanin**, a company founded by two women of color who grew up at camps, with the mission of assisting organizations to provide a safe and inclusive camp culture that honors diversity and welcomes and embraces People of Color in the camp world. Prior to the camp week in August, they will conduct the audit, meet with the Emerging Leaders, facilitate a DEI & cultural sensitivity training and make recommendations for the upcoming camp session. The trainings provided prior to camp will include sessions on trauma-informed programming, LGBTQ inclusivity/belonging and COVID-19 and Camp. In the fall, S'more Melanin will conduct an internal organizational equity audit of our trainings, policies and materials and provide recommendations to the organization.

3-Why is it important to fund this now?

We are facing financial challenges due to COVID-19, and lost over \$50,000 in funding in 2020. These losses are due to a decrease in donations from individuals, corporations and foundations. Donors have shifted their focus to different areas of funding during the pandemic. The challenge is that as our funding has decreased, the need for our services has increased. We need your support to sustain our dream of providing free therapeutic and educational programs to children and families coping with HIV/AIDS.

COVID-19 brings additional challenges to the camp session in August. These include the increased cost of PPE equipment & rapid COVID-19 testing kits, the increased pre-camp family responsibilities (daily temperature checks, quarantine), increased number of volunteers and staff for the session due to social distancing, access to vaccines for volunteers/staff and the risk of transmission to at-risk family members upon return home from camp.

The transition back to in-person programming is vital for the children and families served by Camp

Dreamcatcher. COVID-19 has increased the level of anxiety and depression experienced by children. Last June, the CDC reported a 24% increase in emergency room visits for mental health related issues in children ages 5-11. According to Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child, the single most common factor for children who develop resilience is having at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive parent, caregiver, or other adult. 70% of the children and volunteers at camp have been attending our programs for over ten years. The boundary breaking bonds they have created over the years have become connections of the heart.

98% of the youth served by our programs are from low-income households, and only 13% have access to free or affordable therapeutic support in their communities. Many are experiencing understandable fears about their own compromised immune systems and an increased vulnerability to contracting COVID-19. The trauma-informed programming offered during the camp session has been updated to include programming specific to COVID-19, and provides the four key factors necessary to support youth as they heal from trauma and loss. These include safety, positive caring relationships with adults, a feeling of achievement or success, and activities that develop a sense of agency or control in their lives. Our new Trauma-Informed Camp Programming Counselor Training addresses the specific needs of children who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) and 70% of the youth served by our programs have experienced some form of abuse, trauma or ACE's. COVID-19 has raised the level of isolation, loss and trauma experienced by the campers.

The campers, their families and volunteers' complete evaluations at the end of the camp program. These quotes are from the camper evaluations:

"This is where my family is. This camp is perfect."

"I love the counselors at camp because they help me to play and give me hope. I feel so loved and safe at camp."

"Camp is a dream that I never want to wake up from."

"I receive love at Camp Dreamcatcher."

"I learned I am a beautiful person at camp."

"Camp is my safe haven."

100% of the children report that they feel safe and loved at camp.

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
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