

# I. 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: 6/2/2021**

## Contact Information

Organization Name: Friends Association for Care & Protection of Children

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FEIN: 23-1381006

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Board Chair Name: Matthew Holliday

Board Chair Approval (check here):

Primary Contact Name: Emily McClure

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## Organization Information:

### Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities

Environment/Animal Welfare

Education

Health

Human Services

Religion

**Mission:** Friends Association provides programs and services that prevent homelessness and promote the independence of families with children.

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

Friends Association provides services to all Chester County residents.

### **Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:**

Friends Association provides services to households experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and/or eviction. In FY21, Friends will serve over 750 individuals and over 300 households.

**Annual Budget** \$ 1,087,489 (FY21) \_\_\_\_\_ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

81 % of budget for program expenses  13 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Board Volunteers

9 % of budget for administrative expenses  18 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

10 % of budget for fundraising expenses  200 (COVID) # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** Chester County Dept. of Community Development, PHARE/PHFA, Chester County United Way, Foundation Grants, Individual Donations

**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:** \$ 10,000 \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal Summary:** Friends Association seeks general operating funding to meet the increased needs of the community as its members recover from the global pandemic. Friends has more than doubled its impact in the community over the last year and predicts it will continue to serve the elevated needs of community members disproportionately affected by the simultaneous financial and health crises throughout the coming year.



**Chester County Community Foundation**  
**Grant Proposal – Friends Association for Care & Protection of Children**  
**Fiscal Year 2022**

**Mission and History**

Friends Association is one of the longest running child welfare non-profit organizations in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and has its roots in Quaker tradition. Beginning in 1822, a group of abolitionist women in Philadelphia came together to dedicate resources toward providing a home for children who had lost their parents, many as a result of being held captive and enslaved. Throughout the years, the organization has changed and evolved but has always focused on the protection of children and on recognizing the inherent value of each member of society.

In 2010, Friends began to focus its mission entirely on ending family homelessness in Chester County. **Friends provides programs and services that prevent homelessness and promote the independence of families with children.** We are unique in that we focus on keeping families together during times of crisis while connecting them with strengths-based case management and community resources. We support all families experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness in Chester County structured as they are when we meet them, including single moms and dads, two-parent, multi-generational, grandparent, and LGBTQ+ families. We empower them as they build on existing strengths and skills and work together to build resiliency, stable housing, educational opportunities, and economic self-sufficiency.

The overarching goal of Friends' programming is to make homelessness for families in our community rare, brief, and non-recurring by providing emergency housing for families who have lost their homes, and through prevention programs that keep families stably housed while providing essential wrap-around services.

**Community Need**

Homelessness is a national crisis and often overlooked in strategies to address the issue is the invisible crisis of family homelessness. Family homelessness, once viewed as episodic and situational, has become chronic, with families accounting for 37% of the overall homeless population and 50% of the sheltered population (The Bassuk Center on Homeless and Vulnerable Children & Youth). On any given night there are 522 individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Chester County (2020 Point in Time Count Decade to Doorways). And in 2018, 185 families were placed on the emergency housing queue (Decade to Doorways Year End Data Report, 2018).

The primary cause of homelessness is a lack of affordable housing. Across the country, millions of low-income households have serious housing problems due to high housing costs, substandard housing conditions, or both. The median rent in Chester County is \$1,393 and 41.3% of renters pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs, as reported by Chester County Dept. of Community Development.

Historically, Friends Association has assisted approximately 100 families each year. Since this time last year, however, we have served over 700 individuals representing over 250+ families. This is a substantial increase due specifically to the COVID-19 pandemic. We anticipate that this increased level of care for the community will remain as those disproportionately affected by the pandemic will recover disproportionately slower. Our newly established Eviction

Prevention Court (EPC) Program has already served over 100 households and the need is projected to remain high and increase with the lifting of the CDC moratorium.

## **Programs**

Friends Association addresses the needs of a wide range of families throughout Chester County, from those who are experiencing homelessness to those who are currently housed but in jeopardy of losing their housing, through four pillars of service: Preventing homelessness, Providing emergency housing, Partnering with families to support their stability, and Promoting systemic change. Friends Association programs are designed to enrich the lives of children and families by giving them the space and resources they need to achieve stable housing, economic self-sufficiency, and improved overall health and well-being.

Our service delivery includes the following approaches:

- Housing First is a research-based solution to ending homelessness that prioritizes providing housing to individuals experiencing homelessness as quickly as possible without preconditions.
- Two-Generation (2Gen) approaches build family well-being by intentionally and simultaneously working with children and the adults in their lives together.
- Trauma-Informed Care is a service approach that acknowledges the widespread, long-term impacts of trauma, understands signs and symptoms of trauma, and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma into all policies and practices.
- Resiliency Focused communities identify programs and best practices proven to build resiliency at both individual and systemic levels and improve the health of the entire system by promoting restoration, health, and growth in ongoing ways.

## **Preventing Homelessness:**

Homelessness Prevention Programs provide community-based services and eviction prevention for families that balance financial assistance, landlord mediation, and case management for 12-18 months to support economic self-sufficiency and the resiliency of families.

Friends Association took the lead in the community by initiating an Eviction Prevention Court (EPC) Pilot Program that aims to prevent homelessness stemming from COVID-19. Beginning on September 1, 2020, the program is the first of its kind in Chester County and the only service to offer free legal representation, financial assistance, and social service support to individuals and families facing eviction. Friends knows that it makes moral, financial, and practical sense to keep community members in their homes when at all possible. Studies have repeatedly shown community-wide benefits from eviction prevention, some showing \$12+ benefit for every \$1 of investment. Starting in one court, District Court 15-4-02 (Downingtown), the program has now expanded to serve two additional courts in the county, Magisterial District Court 15-1-03 and Magisterial District Court 15-1-05 (Coatesville, South Coatesville, and Valley Township). Within the next fiscal year, Friends plans to expand to an additional three courts with a long-term goal of expanding to serve the entire county.

## **Providing Emergency Housing:**

Our Family Center (Emergency Housing) in West Chester houses families, referred through the County's coordinated entry system, in one of six apartment units. Each family lives autonomously in an apartment for 90-120+ days as they work with their case manager to secure permanent housing, create a housing stability case plan, increase income, and access mainstream benefits. Pregnant women and families with infants are immediately engaged with the Nurse Family Partnership to provide education, support, and resource connections. Taking a two-generation approach, we coordinate

high quality early learning access (Head Start, Early Head Start) for all children under the age of 5. Our goal is for all the families that access this resource to be able to achieve long-term housing stability. Friends' Family Center is currently the only low-barrier emergency housing in the county that can house entire family units together through their time of crisis. Although located in West Chester, we assist families from anywhere in Chester County.

#### **Partnering with families to support stability:**

Through our Housing Stability Program, long-term case management is available for families recently moved to permanent housing from any emergency housing unit in the county. Families receive 6-12 months of case management, which includes a housing stability case plan, linkages to supportive services, Prepared Renters Program, and budgeting. This service aims to support families through the critical first months in long-term housing to ensure success.

Our newest program is NIA House, a diversionary reentry home for women and children in Coatesville. For returning citizens, having a safe and secure place to call home upon reunification with children, can be the vital key to successful reentry. We know that access to affordable housing is a barrier to economic stability and self-sufficiency. This program will give women the space they need to re-establish critical bonds with their children and secure long-term stable housing after a period of incarceration. Currently, 30% of the women incarcerated in our county's jail are from Coatesville. NIA House will welcome its first residents in June of 2021.

#### **Promoting Systemic Change:**

Friends truly believes that housing is a basic human right and that without the safety and security of a home, life cannot flourish. We aim to build a community rooted in justice, built on equity, and grounded in the knowledge that we are all deserving of a home. We believe that our advocacy work is present in all that we do, as we amplify the voices of our community, intentionally use language that is ethical and compassionate, educate our community, and create opportunities within our organization for a diverse staff that is representative, at all job levels, of the citizens we serve. Our goal is to highlight the importance of affordable housing, the impact of evictions and homelessness, the intersectionality of these issues with social justice, and to support efforts to improve just housing opportunities for all.

Friends' full-time staff attorney, in addition to running our new Eviction Prevention Court Program, will coordinate legal clinics, educational opportunities, and advocacy efforts. As part of NIA House, individuals with lived experience will learn leadership skills and participate in advocacy training programs. We believe that those closest to the problem are also closest to the solution. Their voices need to be heard and amplified.

#### **Evaluation & Impact**

In Fiscal Year 2020 we served 103 total families in all programs, including:

- 76% single-parent households (70% are women-led households)
- 78% families of color (54% Black families)
- 19% with a disability
- 54% justice involvement
- 44% with addiction and/or mental health challenges
- 35% with a history of domestic violence
- 8% parenting youth

By the end of FY21, we will have served over 300 families throughout our programming directly impacting the Chester County community, children and youth, women-led households, BIPOC communities, and those affected most by the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, we can ensure that all our neighbors have access to safe and secure housing.