

**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

Date 7/22/2021

Contact Information

Organization Name: **Family Promise of SCC**
 Address: 1156 W. Baltimore Pike, PO Box 394
 Phone: 610-444-0400
 Website: www.familypromisesc.org
 Year Incorporated: 2015
 FEIN: 35-2518819

ED/CEO Name: Renna Van Oot
 ED/CEO E-mail: ed@familypromisesc.org
 Board Chair Name: Burt Rothenberger
 Board Chair Approval (check here):
 Primary Contact Name: Liberty Breen
 Primary Contact E-mail: lbreen@familypromisesc.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission:

Family Promise of Southern Chester County helps families with children experiencing homelessness achieve sustainable housing and stability.

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

Southern Chester County

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Family Promise of SCC serves children and their families mainly in Southern Chester County. In 2020, 100% of the families were single female households, 31% were African American, 18% Bi or Multi-racial, 26% Latinx, and 26% were not identified. On average, each family had two children (under the age of 18). These families are low-income, underserved within their community, and experiencing or are on the verge of homelessness. 2020 was unusual in that we expanded our rental assistance program to the larger community, rather than just those in our program. The two other designated agencies who do this were overwhelmed with the need, so we received funding and aided accordingly. Normally our numbers would reflect just the families we served (14 families, 42 individuals), and any graduate families (41 families) who returned for some assistance. In 2020 we served 294 individuals.

Annual Budget \$ <u>480,704</u>	<u>4</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>88</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>12</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>1</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>694</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>11</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>3334</u> # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

1. Foundations 2. Individual Donor Donations 3. Fundraising Events 4. Annual Appeal

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

Proposal Summary: Family Promise serves families with children who are experiencing homelessness, on the brink of homelessness, and those who have found housing and/or are transitioning back to self-sufficiency. We work hard to ensure we serve all compositions of families. In all our programs, a case manager helps moves families towards independence.

Every Child Deserves a Home - Post Diversion: We are receiving referrals for families who are "doubled-up" with family and friends because they cannot pay their rent or find affordable housing. Many are living in crowded and sometimes unsafe situations. One family was living in a basement without heat, another in an unfinished attic. Because these families do not meet the definition of homelessness according to HUD, they may not receive assistance from government funded organizations; once a family has a roof over their head, they are no longer considered homeless. Our Post Diversion program focuses on these families. We anticipate even more families will fall within this category once the moratorium on evictions is lifted.

I. Program Purpose:

To divert families from shelter and homelessness by assisting them to identify alternative housing options, services, or resources through case management services.

II. Program Guiding Principles:

To be successful, the Program is committed to the following Principles:

- Culturally Competent
- Strength-based
- Trauma-informed

III. Program Components include:

- Initial two-week stabilization period to divert from need for shelter services, if needed;
- Provide housing and financial support to help families secure safe and affordable short-term housing with a long-term goal of self-sufficient long term permanent housing;
- Case management - may include but is not limited to 1) Household budgeting/financial literacy 2) Vocational education/training; 3) Good tenancy training; 4) Entitlements (Child Care, health benefits, and SNAP); 5) Transportation; 6) Advocacy; 7) Mental health services.

Desired outcome (goal): Secure safe and affordable short or long-term housing for families with an emphasis on a swift case management turn-around. In cases where more assistance is needed, clients may continue in the Road to Self-Sufficiency.

Objectives:

1. Divert families from need for shelter within two weeks.
 - a. Method: Assess and establish goals. Explore natural support systems and community support systems to divert from shelter services.
2. Move families into permanent housing within one to 3 months.

- a. Method: Create longer term Case Plan tailored to each family's needs. All plans should include, at a minimum, goals addressing, gaining, or improving employment, household budgeting/financial literacy, securing permanent housing, and connection to entitlements (i.e., childcare, housing subsidies, food stamps, health care). Additional goals are commonly educational, related to transportation, credit history, building social network, and other life skills.
3. Maintain housing stability for families.
- a. Method: initially weekly or bi-weekly check in once families are housed for first month, then check in at 3, 6, and 12 months. Available to families as needed.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

Our story began with a simple act of compassion, which set in motion a movement to end family homelessness. FPSCC, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was created to address the growing concern for families, with children, experiencing homelessness in the communities defined by the five Southern Chester County school districts: Kennett Consolidated, Avon Grove, Oxford, Unionville-Chadds Ford, and Octorara. Indicative of this concern is the fact that the PA Department of Education reports that approximately 500 students had experienced some form of homelessness in our community.

FPSCC opened its doors in 2015 when community individuals and organizations became aware and concerned with the total lack of shelter beds in this part of the county and that the fact that families could be split when entering a tradition shelter scenario. Mothers would be sent to a female shelter while their sons would be sent to a male shelter. FPSCC sought to find a remedy. Our organization provides the framework for helping families experiencing homelessness regain their housing, their independence, and their dignity while keeping a family together. Families are stronger when they are together.

FPSCC's innovative, unique, and effective programs help children and their families overcome homelessness and remain stably housed. Each night of homelessness can have long-term effects on families, so our programs help them quickly get back into housing. We also believe that when families lose their homes, they should not have to lose each other. We have always been dedicated to serving families of any kind — not just mothers and young children, but also single fathers, two-parent households, and families of any size.

2. Funding request

• Description of key initiatives

- Establish a low-barrier screening/intake process for initial two-week diversion program.
- If a longer-term program is needed, then Road to Self-Sufficiency will require a criminal background check and drug screens. Eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Case Manager completes a psychosocial assessment and communicates with identified support system.
- Establish a set of rules for program participants, guidelines, and process for dismissal
- Forms for clients to complete to include job log

• Specific needs & issues to be addressed

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's [2020 Out of Reach](#) report, *"it has become clear that there are no states within the US where an individual can work 40 hours per week at the minimum wage and afford a modest 1-bedroom apartment"*. In our communities, *"renters must work an average of 95 hours per week at the minimum wage to afford a 1-bedroom apartment"*. This data from 2019, reflects Southern Chester County, Pennsylvania and highlights the already challenging environment for low-income families trying to maintain safe and affordable housing.

Lack of Affordable Housing, Childcare Costs, Insufficient Public Transportation, and Community Education are amongst many needs Family Promise of SCC is addressing. The basic issue is that the demand for affordable housing in Chester County has outpaced the supply, and this has caused costs and rents to rise. The underlying causes of homelessness are not alleviated simply by providing housing, as crucial as that is. The immense variety of services Family Promise of SCC can provide ensures that families do not slip back into homelessness, so that the changes that the family has made are enduring.

Homelessness does not discriminate based on age, gender, race, or religion. The journey to homelessness is demoralizing, degrading, devastating and often ends with feelings of despair and hopelessness. The root cause of homelessness in America is the lack of affordable housing to meet the needs of low-income families. Job loss, divorce/separation, and illness are common triggers, and, when coupled with the growing housing cost burden, can ultimately result in families being forced onto the streets. The face of homelessness is not the stereotypical image, but more often looks like the “family next door” who you cross paths with at school, the store, or doctor’s office. In the communities that we serve, single mothers with children are more often faced with homelessness. Families with children are among the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. According to the PA Dept. of Education's 2020 report, 500 youths experienced homelessness in 2018 - 2019.

• **Why it is important to fund this now**

In 2015, Family Promise of Southern Chester County opened its doors with the mission to help children and their families, experiencing homelessness, achieve lasting self-sufficiency and stability by providing shelter, meals, and comprehensive support services through a network of congregations and volunteers. The original program was a rotational shelter model format wherein families with children were provided shelter, food, intensive case management, and community support.

This rotational model ended in 2020 because the COVID-19 restrictions mandated the closure of the churches and meeting houses where our families were sheltered. The hope was that when the restrictions were lifted, the churches and meeting houses would continue to provide shelter for our families. This is not the case. Since January, we have met with representatives from the host congregations to ascertain the commitment to our rotational program. Thirteen churches are generally needed for each to host one week per quarter. Of our original 13 host congregations (pre-Covid), we have only 8 willing to contemplate hosting the families at a future time. One host church has told us that they will not consider housing families until 2024. Without the host churches, Family Promise of Southern Chester County has had to pivot in the way we are helping homeless families and is moving towards both a post-Diversion program as well as finding a static shelter to house families.

From 2020 to present, 100% of our families have been single mothers. These mothers lacked the resources, skills, confidence, and education to break out of the cycle of poverty which has led to homelessness. We have noticed that the demand for services has increased. When the congregations closed their doors during the pandemic, we were receiving approximately ten calls a week from families seeking assistance. As a result of closures and job loss, many renters fell behind in paying rent. The government has provided stimulus money, extended unemployment benefits, and a moratorium on evictions to ease the crisis. In addition, they have recently increased benefits to provide rental assistance in anticipation of the stimulus, unemployment, and moratorium on evictions lifting. Despite these efforts, we have seen a somewhat “hidden” population of people experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento definition (<https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento-definition/>). These are families who are “doubled-up” living with friends or families but have no home of their own.

Many organizations serving the homeless receive funding originating from HUD, which defines homelessness (with some exceptions) as a person being “street homeless.” Once some of these families are diverted from street homelessness away from a shelter, some are in doubled-up situations, they therefore are no longer considered homeless under HUD, and, depending on the resources of the agency serving them, may no longer be able to be served to find their own housing. Again, 100% of these referrals are single mothers. We call this program “Every Child Deserves a Home: Post-Diversion” because being diverted from shelter is not enough.

- **How impact & results will be demonstrated**

Objectives: Capture program participants demographics, family size and income. Capture housing outcomes and overall case management services.

- 85% of cases will be successful and diverted from shelter

For longer term program:

- 95% of participants entering in unemployed will become employed
- 95% of participants will increase savings
- 10% of participants will increase income (timeframe)
- 95% of participants will securing stable housing
- 85% of participants will maintain stable housing for a minimum of one year
- 30% of participants will better their Education via GED, certificate, or other educational programs, including driver’s ed.

- *For capacity building grant proposals:*

- *How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?*
- *How will this impact be measured?*
- *Include a description of the expected activities; timeline & costs to implement the initiative. If external consulting services are required, include the anticipated costs & expertise of the consultants to be hired. Include external consultant proposals if applicable.*

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 & financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant’s proposal, if applicable)
6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.

- Use this form @ www.chescof.org to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
- **Email proposals to grants@chescof.org**
- Proposals are considered “complete” when CCCF has **confirmed** receipt of the **Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative & Attachments.**
- Proposals are shared electronically and online with Fund Advisors, Donors & Grant Panels.
- Per IRS Regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification & cannot be individuals.

Please contact Grants Administrator Kevin Baffa at
(610) 696-8211 grants@chescof.org with questions.





WHAT IS CAPACITY BUILDING?

Capacity building helps bring a nonprofit to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity, in order to more effectively & efficiently fulfill its mission.

Capacity building may include (but is not limited to) projects which address:

- **MISSION, VISION & STRATEGY**
Organizational Assessment - Strategic Planning - Financial Planning
- **GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP**
Board Development - Executive Transition/Succession Planning - Leadership Development - Staff Training & Professional Development
- **PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS**
Coalition Building – Collaboration - Mergers & Acquisitions - Strategic Restructuring
- **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING**
Major Gift Donor Identification, Cultivation, Development & Stewardship - Development Campaigns (Annual, Capital, Planned Giving) - Earned Income Development - Social Enterprise Feasibility & Development - Marketing, Branding & Communications
- **TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS**
Business Continuity Planning - Financial Management - Human Resources - Volunteer Management - Industry Certification - Risk Management - Technology Improvements