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**CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
**HEALTH CARE ACCESS GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

Date August 9, 2021

**Contact Information**

Health Care Access (HCA)  
100 First Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
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610-935-3165  
[www.hcaphoenixville.org](http://www.hcaphoenixville.org)  
Incorporated in 2005  
FEIN: 20-2556121

Executive Director: Tracy Shantz  
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Board Chair: Dr. Andrew Timar  
Board Chair Approval (check here):   
Primary Contact: Tracy Shantz  
Primary Contact Phone: 610-935-3165

**Organization Information:**

**Field/s of Interest:**

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

**Mission:** To improve the health and quality of life in the greater Phoenixville area by helping the uninsured and underinsured overcome financial and cultural barriers in obtaining specialized health care and immigration services.

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

HCA Service area includes 18 townships and boroughs surrounding Phoenixville. It is a large geographical circle around Phoenixville that encompasses parts of Chester and smaller parts of Montgomery county.

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:** HCA serves the under-served of the community, those who cannot afford to pay for care and would otherwise go without. Our clients include; Medicaid and Medicare recipients, the uninsured that cannot afford health insurance, those on Obamacare, veterans without full benefits, those in transition or crisis, those with inadequate medical insurance via employment, and children and adults who don't qualify for insurance. On average, over 1000 people enroll each year.

**Annual Budget** \$ 740,670 4 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
86 % of budget for program expenses      8 # of Board Volunteers  
8 % of budget for administrative expenses      1 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
6 % of budget for fundraising expenses      400 # of Volunteer Hours  
100 % total

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, Phoenixville Hospital, Delta Dental, Philadelphia Foundation, Eleanor Bennett Family Foundation, Pottstown Area Health & Wellness

**Is this grant proposal for:** Capacity Building  or General Operating

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$5000

**Proposal Summary:** We respectfully request a general operating grant in the amount of \$5000. Funding will ensure our ability to continue offering our specialty health care programs to as many people who need it as we can. With your investment, Health Care Access can fulfill our mission of providing access to dental, vision, prescription medications, mammograms and immigration services to those in the community who need it the most.

## II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE HEALTH CARE ACCESS

*Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.*

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

Health Care Access (HCA) is a community benefit nonprofit that serves the Greater Phoenixville area. Established in 1999 as a children's dental program, Health Care Access has grown over the last 20 years to serve underinsured and uninsured community members of all ages currently with five distinctive programs: dental, vision, prescription medication assistance, mammograms, and immigration services. HCA was originally established as a result of a community needs study that identified lack of access to dental, vision and prescription medications as a need in the greater Phoenixville community. HCA was created to address these unmet needs, and we continue filling in the gaps of insurances' shortfalls to this day. We continue our mission is to improve the health and quality of life in the greater Phoenixville area by helping the uninsured and underinsured overcome financial and cultural barriers in obtaining specialized health care and immigration services to this day as the need remains. Our Vision is that every eligible resident of the Phoenixville area will access the specialized services they need through our programs.

Health Care Access is *unique* because of our community provider model. We have a network of local practitioners including 16 dental practices, 9 vision providers, 2 pharmacies, and the Phoenixville Hospital Mammogram Suite that provide care for our clients at a predetermined discounted fee schedule. The established practitioners provide the care, we provide the funding. Our dedicated network of providers allows us to meet the health care needs of the population we serve. By utilizing existing community resources, we can connect clients with the care they need locally while supporting the economic and physical health of the wider community. These partnerships bring value to the health of the patients and economic health to the whole community.

### 2. Funding request - Description of key initiatives, Specific needs & issues to be addressed, Why it is important to fund this now, and How impact & results will be demonstrated

Health Care Access is seeking a general operating grant of \$5000. While our clients help to cover the cost of their care with an affordable copay, HCA covers the actual (albeit reduced) cost of care provided by our network of providers. So in addition to the cost to administer our programs, there is a direct cost of care for clients. Here is a description of our initiatives.

**Dental:** The Dental Program provides preventative, basic restorative, and emergency care to qualifying children and adults. Cleanings, exams, x-rays, fillings, extractions, and help with the cost of dentures or partials are covered. The scope of care is more limited for adults but most everything is covered for children except braces. Clients presenting with pain and infection will be seen by a dentist within 48 hours. Annual goal: 550+ adults will apply and receive dental care and 110 children will receive dental care as well.

**Vision:** The Vision Program provides comprehensive eye exams, diagnostic care, and glasses or contacts. Those in need of a consult with an eye care specialist will be seen for a consult and treated if possible within the limits of the budget. Annual goal: over 400 adults/children will receive vision care.

**Prescription Assistance:** The Prescription Program assists those without prescription insurance coverage. Those in need of long term medications will be assisted in making application to the drug company Patient Assistance Programs (PAP's) that provide free brand name medications for up to a year. HCA will order refills for enrolled PAP clients every 3-4 months as allowed. HCA pays for a database that allows us to generate current PAP applications for our clients-critical as every drug company has their own application, eligibility criteria, and application process. Secondly, our Prescription Assistance Program also helps those in need of emergency help with medications. Clients will receive assistance at a local pharmacy where HCA will pay for the medications at a reduced price. HCA works closely with the local hospital in helping uninsured patients being discharged on life-sustaining medications receive an emergency supply to help avoid readmission. Assistance with copays is also available on an emergency basis. Annual goal: HCA will assist over 150 clients with either emergency supplies of medications or PAP applications.

**Mammogram:** The Mammogram Program assists women (men) aged 40 and up to obtain a free mammogram screening, with funding available for further diagnostics if indicated. This program is a partnership with Phoenixville Hospital and Community Radiology at Penn. Annual goal: 50 women will have access to mammogram screenings and further testing as indicated. Last year, two women were diagnosed with breast cancer as a result of our program.

**Immigration Service Program:** The Immigration Services Program is our newest and fastest growing program. The goal of the program is to assist lower income clients with their immigration status. Although not directly a health program, the immigration services provided have an impact on our clients' well-being. The first step is to provide a consultation to assess if they have any opportunity to improve their status with the US government. Improving their status can lead to opportunities like education, a driver's license, employment, or sometimes permanent residency and citizenship. Providing accurate knowledge about immigration laws to clients assists them in future decision making in many aspects of their lives. The future course of their lives can be affected by the services we provide. Helping immigrants know their rights and providing information about US immigration laws directly impacts their health and well-being. It can provide hope, empower, alleviate fear, and provide direction in one's life choices. HCA has been recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Executive Office of Immigration Review to provide low-cost legal assistance by an accredited staff member. To be recognized, an organization must establish that it charges only nominal fees and the accredited staff member must have adequate knowledge and experience in immigration law and procedure completing many hours of intensive training. The Department of Justice established this opportunity to increase access to low cost legal services for immigrants. Annual goal: 50 immigrants will be served.

With your investment at any funding level, our organization can remain committed to our mission of providing access for the uninsured and underinsured to dental, vision, assistance with prescription medications, free mammograms, and assistance with immigration issues.

While we do request clients pay a copay directly to our providers when they can, it is the responsibility of HCA to cover the reduced fees that we have negotiated with our network of providers. In recent years, we have seen an uptick in dental needs for the children coming in to receive our services. We strive to accept and help as many community members as possible with a concerted effort to not turn away anyone in need of any of our services.

Funding is more important now than ever before because of the increase in need for the community. We are not unique in saying that we have seen an increase in clients seeking care through our organization since the pandemic began. As we enter into the "next normal" we will likely see even more of an increase in individuals seeking care who may have suffered job and income loss during these unprecedented times.

While Health Care Access is grateful to our current and loyal funders, we recognize that they are strained as well to meet the increased needs of many of the nonprofits in our community and we seek to diversify our funding streams as much as possible.

Our success is measured in the number of clients that receive relief from dental pain, new glasses to improve vision, providing lifesaving prescription medications, mammogram screenings to detect cancer early and by providing life changing immigration services. HCA establishes goals for numbers to be served each fiscal year and tracks results based upon actual numbers enrolled. This is the most tangible measurable indicator of success in each program area. This is part of the record keeping and purpose of the client database we maintain and pay for monthly. Although impact on client health can be difficult to measure and track, we are encouraged daily by the positive feedback we receive from our clients. Many of our clients have nowhere else to turn and they tell us just that. If not for our programs, many would go without care.

Periodically we do administer satisfaction health surveys, which provide us with indicators of success and the positive impact our programs have on client health, behaviors, and overall well-being. These surveys are anonymous and provide the opportunity for clients to give us constructive criticism about our organization. We are then able to make changes to improve how our programs are delivered and foster continued positive outcomes. Open ongoing dialog with our providers also helps with program evaluation and improvement. Our health programs have been formally evaluated in the past and continue to be effective and cost efficient in providing access to quality health services to those in need. The need for our health programs remain strong and we remain committed to serving the community. Our programs continue to be an innovative, sustainable, measurable, and impactful solution for specialized health care services in the greater Phoenixville community.

Clients return for services over many years, which also speaks to the ongoing need and our success. HCA is a trusted valuable resource for many organizations in the community. HCA has developed positive relationships with the local hospital, local clinics, school districts, civic organizations, churches and many of the other nonprofit agencies working together in meeting the needs of the community residents. Our greatest marketing tool is 'word of mouth'. We are confident in our model of care and have proven success in meeting the specific health care needs of the community in the most cost-effective way. Our providers remain committed to the program and our mission. With each year of operation, we learn ways to refine, improve, and maintain our five programs. As long as funding is available and the need remains, we will continue to serve our target population.

Health Care Access remains a one-of-a-kind, indispensable community healthcare organization. We hope you will consider joining our team of supporters in helping to continue the good work our small but mighty organization provides to the greater Phoenixville Community. Donations of any size can be designated to any one of our programs as desired, or for overall general operating. Thank you for your consideration.