

**CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors.

Date 08/20/2021

Contact Information

Organization Name: YMCA of Greater Brandywine (YGBW)	ED/CEO Name: Denise Day
Address: One E. Chestnut St., West Chester, 19380	ED/CEO E-mail: dday@ymcagbw.org
Phone: (610) 643-9622	Board Chair Name: James Horn
Website: www.ymcagbw.org	Board Chair Approval (check here): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Year Incorporated: 1892	Primary Contact Name: Elaine Gilmartin
FEIN: 23-1365994	Primary Cont. E-mail egilmartin@ymcagbw.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

<input type="checkbox"/> Arts, Culture & Humanities	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment/Animal Welfare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion

Mission:

Our mission is "to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy mind, body and spirit for all." We accomplish this through our three pillars: Social Responsibility, Youth Development and Healthy Living.

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

YGBW is an association of 8 Y branches that serve communities across Chester County. Our Association office is located in downtown West Chester.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

YGBW is the largest nonprofit organization serving Chester County, the largest provider of licensed childcare, and the 12th largest employer. Under regular operating conditions, our eight branches typically serve more than 80,000 individuals and families annually. Last year, despite mandatory facility closures and declines in our membership base, YGBW continued to identify and serve the most urgent needs in our communities—from food distribution to emergency childcare and remote learning support. We are steadily rebuilding our numbers and welcome **all** in our communities to join us.

Annual Budget \$ 30,072,809 (2020 Audited Financials)

	<u>163</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>80</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>23</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>18</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>2,000</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>2</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>18,200</u>	# of Volunteer Hours (2020)
<i>100 % total</i>		

Top 3-5 funding sources: Program revenue, Membership, Contracts/grants

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: YGBW seeks operating support that will enable us to continue providing fully and partially-subsidized health, wellness, education and youth development programming to children, youth and individuals with financial need.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

YMCA of Greater Brandywine (YGBW) is an association of 8 YMCAs serving communities across Chester County. We are a mission-driven, charitable service organization that has been strengthening the foundations of our communities since 1892. We do this through programs that promote youth development, healthy living, social responsibility and the acceptance of the equality of all persons. At the heart of our mission is a commitment to serve all members of our community, regardless of age, ability or income. We award financial assistance to ensure that no one is denied a chance to participate due to an inability to pay and we provide programs and services that are accessible to all.

YGBW's branches typically serve 80,000 individuals and families annually. We offer educational and wellness programs that help individuals of all ages decrease lifestyle-related diseases and improve their overall health. Our summer camps, after-school and early learning programs offer thousands of children experiences that enrich cognitive, social, physical and emotional growth. We offer quality programs that help young people cultivate the values, skills and relationships that lead to positive behavior, better health and educational achievement.

Last year, in response to the COVID crisis, YGBW focused its resources on addressing our communities' most pressing needs. This included hosting blood drives that collected over 730 donations, serving 2,190 patients; collecting and distributing food to over 500 local families; and providing childcare, summer camp, and remote learning centers that served thousands of children and families across Chester County. This summer we partnered with local school districts to support their extended summer school programs with STEM enrichment, social emotional learning and afterschool camp and childcare. YGBW also remains the largest provider of licensed, high quality, affordable childcare in Chester County. As we continue to rebuild, we look forward to welcoming everyone back to our Ys, re-energized in a sense of common purpose and community.

2. Funding request

We respectfully invite members of our community to partner with us to sustain the wide variety of Y programs that serve the needs of children and families across Chester County—particularly those who are facing financial hardship and other challenges exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

For working families, access to safe, supervised, dependable out-of-school-time programming is vitally important. Yet, this can be difficult to find, particularly during early adolescence, a critical time in a young person's life when there is increased likelihood of unhealthy behaviors and experimentation. With support from our partners in the community, the Y strives to meet the needs of all children and youth by offering the following subsidized programs:

Afterschool Care and Summer Camp: When school is not in session, our Ys offer thousands of children across Chester County a safe, welcoming environment that supports positive behavior and a sense of community. Our trained staff provide homework assistance, organized sports, and enrichment activities including STEM and the arts. At summer camp, children benefit from positive, fun experiences that encourage learning, build confidence, and instill a lasting sense of community and well-being. Many children in our programs participate free-of-charge or at a reduced rate based on family income.

Believe and Achieve: At our Oscar Lasko YMCA (OLY) in downtown West Chester, we offer the Believe and Achieve afterschool and summer camp program for children from economically-disadvantaged families in the Borough. Over 60 kids (grades K-8) find a safe haven and critical supports at OLY, including homework help, sports/recreation, academic enrichment, and healthy meals during the school year. Over the summer, they participate in OLY's summer camp, which

includes field trips, swim lessons and other engaging, confidence-building activities. The Believe and Achieve program provides a full year of care and is fully-subsidized by the Y.

Seventh Grade Initiative: As kids face adolescence they are more likely to begin distancing themselves from formal organizations, friends, and family and to experiment with unhealthy behaviors. Unfortunately, COVID has added a new layer of complication during these formative years. To help support teens, YGBW offers a complimentary Y membership for seventh-grade students, providing them with a safe space where they can make friends, discover their passions and cultivate a healthy lifestyle and good habits that will last them a lifetime. This year, we are extending eligibility to all 8th graders as well, because we recognize that many kids who would have participated last year were prevented by the COVID pandemic.

Power Scholars Academy (PSA)/Summer School Partnerships: Children from families without the resources to provide summer enrichment or camp are at risk of losing an average of two months of math and literacy skills over a typical summer. This loss compounds every year and by 8th grade accounts for up to two-thirds of the achievement gap between low-income children and their more affluent peers. PSA is a nationally recognized, full-day, evidence-based summer program that helps low-income and low performing students avoid this decline in academic skills. YGBW typically offers three Power Scholars Academies each summer, serving over 200 at-risk students in the Coatesville, Oxford and West Chester Borough areas. Over the course of this intensive 5-week program, our scholars receive over 150 hours of math and literacy skills training from licensed teachers and benefit from STEM and arts enrichment, exercise/physical fitness; nutritious meals; and a weekly educational field trip.

This year, our PSA program was on hiatus so that YGBW could partner with several local school districts who were offering special summer school programs to stave off COVID-related learning loss. YGBW provided STEM enrichment, social-emotional learning curriculum and aftercare/camp for hundreds of students enrolled in these special programs. Next summer we will return to offering our Power Scholars Academies or partner with local school districts if they once again offer special summer school programming.

Safety Around Water (SAW): Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death in children under the age of 15 and for minority children the risk is even higher. As one of the nation's leading providers of group swim lessons, the Y is committed to addressing this problem and saving lives. YGBW's SAW program reaches hundreds of children each year, providing them with the skills they need to be safe in and around the water. This free program features introductory swim lessons, water safety skills and YMCA character values.

• Specific needs & issues to be addressed

Each of these programs provides critical services to families and children throughout Chester County. Whether it's licensed childcare, afterschool programming, summer camp, or fitness facilities, we provide a safe, supportive environment in which children and youth can learn and develop. This is central to our mission and we are committed to keeping our programs accessible, particularly to those with the greatest need and fewest resources. Our ability to underwrite the costs of these programs and ensure that we can continue to meet growing demand depends on the support we receive from foundations, businesses and individuals in our community.

• Why it is important to fund this now

Every year, thousands of kids across Chester County find safety, support and healthy choices at the YMCA of Greater Brandywine. For working families struggling to cover the cost of child care, the Y's high quality early childhood and school-aged care are an indispensable resource. This year, as more families struggle to make ends meet, and kids cope with isolation and uncertainty, our ability to subsidize these programs is even more critical. Whether through summer camp, afterschool programs, recreational sports and swim, or youth leadership and service groups—there is something that can engage and inspire children regardless of their abilities or financial resources.

• How impact & results will be demonstrated

We measure the impact of our programming in a variety of ways that go beyond basic enrollment figures. For our *Power Scholars Academy*, pre- and post-program testing allows us to measure children's gains in math and literacy skills. This year, we will partner with school districts to determine the impact of *summer school programs* on student learning and wellbeing. In our *Safety Around Water* training, children are evaluated by swim instructors to ensure that they have successfully mastered the skills and knowledge required to be safe in and around the water. In our *7th Grade Initiative* we seek to increase the number of young people who sign up and participate each year across our association.

For all of our subsidized programs, including *summer camp and before and after-school care*, our goal is to ensure that cost is never an obstacle to participation. Every year we seek to bridge the gap between the financial assistance awarded to families and the dollars raised.

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.