

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

Date 9/13/21

Contact Information

Organization Name: Safe Harbor of Chester County, inc.
Address: 20 N. Matlack St. West Chester, PA 19380
Phone: 610-692-6550
Website: <http://www.safeharborofcc.org>
Year Incorporated: 1995
FEIN: 23-2734615

ED/CEO Name: Judy Jeffords-Homitz
ED/CEO E-mail: judy@safeharborofcc.org
Board Chair Name: Curtis Nelson
Board Chair Approval (check here): X
Primary Contact Name: Judy Jeffords-Homitz
Primary Contact E-Mail: judy@safeharborofcc.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: Safe Harbor is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide housing, food, and access to support services in a structured environment for homeless single men and homeless single women in Chester County.

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

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Annual Budget \$1,037,680

85 % of budget for program expenses

8 % of budget for administrative expenses

7 % of budget for fundraising expenses

100 % total

13 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

11 # of Board Volunteers

380 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

14,500 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Chester County Community Development - \$145,000; United Way of Chester County - \$50,000; Marshall Reynolds Foundation - \$30,000; Annual Fundraisers (2-3) - \$185,000

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: We welcome grants of any amount.

Proposal Summary: Safe Harbor is seeking general operating support. We are open 365 days a year offering shelter, food and case management to as many as 40 adult men and women staying for up to 120 days. We also serve a Community Lunch 6 days a week, serving a hot lunch to up to 55 people daily. We are an official warming and cooling station in Chester County and provide relief to anyone when the weather becomes exceedingly hot or cold. 'Code Red' and 'Code Blue' overnight cots are provided on those days. With tremendous support from our community of donors and volunteers, we run on a very tight budget. We seek funds not able to be donated such as insurance, utility costs and salaries.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

2. Funding request

- Description of key initiatives
- Specific needs & issues to be addressed
- Why it is important to fund this now
- How impact & results will be demonstrated

- 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.chescocf.org to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
- **Email proposals to grants@chescocf.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@chescocf.org with questions.



*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their legacies make a difference.*

2021 SAFE HARBOR OF CHESTER COUNTY CCCF Grant Proposal Narrative:

1. Safe Harbor's history, goals, achievements, and distinctiveness

History: Safe Harbor began as a 'homeless' homeless shelter in 1992 with the help of many area faith communities providing cots at night during the cold months of the year. In December 1995, Safe Harbor opened its door at our current location and began providing beds and support to 20 single homeless men and 4 single homeless women. In 2007, we were asked by a county women's organization to expand our shelter to accommodate more single women. At that time, Safe Harbor of Chester County's 4 women's beds were the only beds for single women experiencing homelessness for the county. In March 2010, we re-opened our doors with a newly constructed second story – providing beds now for 20 men, and also, for 20 women. To help the food insecure population, we also provide a lunch program 6 days a week and serve an average of 55 people daily. During the summer months, we see an increase in the number of children coming into lunch with their parents or guardians because the lack of free or reduced breakfast and lunch provided during the school day impacts the family's ability to adequately feed them.

Goals: Safe Harbor of Chester County's goals go beyond just feeding the food insecure and providing emergency shelter to the homeless single population of Chester County. We seek to understand each person's background and define action plans designed to address their challenges and monitor their progress in rebuilding their lives and self-esteem.

Vision: Safe Harbor will support our neighbors in need with a safe, temporary home until they again have a place to call home, ending homelessness one person at a time.

Achievements and Distinctiveness: From July 2018-July 2019, Safe Harbor provided shelter to 249 unduplicated individuals. In 2020 those numbers were fewer due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, we continued our services to the maximum number of residents allowed. COVID-19 or not, we are finding that individuals are having to stay with us longer for many reasons, the strongest of which is it is harder and harder for individuals to find affordable housing. Couple that with we are serving an even more vulnerable population presenting with more physical mental, and chronic conditions and that adds to the housing hardship. Historically, we have provided approximately 13,000 nights of service annually, including cots available during 'code blue and code red' conditions. In 2019, 64 of our residents found permanent housing while at Safe Harbor. We also provided over 12,000 community lunches and items of fresh bakery, dairy, and produce for the food insecure of West Chester and beyond. Safe Harbor stands out from other emergency shelters in our area for 2 reasons: first, we are the only emergency shelter in the county for single homeless women and one of the two largest shelters for single men; and second, we are the only low barrier ADA compliant shelter, providing support to anyone regardless of their addictions, criminal history, religious beliefs, or medical needs. Residents can stay for up to 120 days while working with our staff to create and follow through on their individualized action plan. Extensions are granted on a case-by-case basis.

2. Funding Request: General Operating Support For Key Initiatives/Specific Needs

Safe Harbor addresses the need for emergency shelter for the homeless population in Chester County, specifically for single adult men and women, along with providing support for food-insecure individuals of all ages. In addition to shelter for our residents, Safe Harbor works individually with each person to create a short-term action plan to address their individual needs. Safe Harbor has been providing full case management in-house for men and women since 2013. We work closely with the Chester County

Department of Community Development and other area agencies involved in 'Decade to Doorways' the county's ten-year initiative to reduce or end homelessness which follows a "housing first" model.

At the core of this initiative is a central intake process for those in need of shelter. Everyone seeking emergency services in Chester County must start by calling 211. If emergency shelter seems to be the most viable for that individual, they are then referred for another intake, ultimately being referred to Safe Harbor of Chester County if it seems to be a proper placement. The Program Manager then reaches out to the individual to further describe our program and offer placement if a bed is available. With the change in the homelessness intake process undertaken since 2014, Safe Harbor has seen a change in our resident population to include those with increased trauma, medical and behavioral issues, and addictions. In addition, we are seeing an increase in the age of our residents, with 39% being over the age of 50. This population also brings with it additional chronic health issues associated with older ages. We have had individuals suffer strokes, brain aneurysms, toe amputations while in the shelter, all of which were expected by the caring hospital to return to Safe Harbor of Chester County when medically cleared. During the last few years, Safe Harbor of Chester County sheltered more than 75% of residents with serious chronic health conditions, many of which required trips to the hospital, often by ambulance. Our oldest resident to date was 82 years old.

These new resident characteristics challenge Safe Harbor of Chester County in many ways, the greatest one being that our staff are asked daily to operate at their fullest capacity and look for ways to meet these needs. These tasks became even more difficult during the pandemic. We must utilize all available internal and external resources available. For many, this is often the first time in a long time that someone is truly listening to them and trying to offer guidance around the issues that brought them to this place in their lives. While doing so, we have expanded our efforts to increase the number of people who secure permanent housing while here.

Safe Harbor has been a visible and respected presence in Chester County for over 25 years. As said above, many homeless men and women were able to focus on their problems and work to improve their situation. Men and women experiencing homelessness have a safe, secure, and welcoming place where they may stay while they focus on their short-term goals and receive guidance while doing so.

Safe Harbor of Chester County continues to meet its mission because of our vast network of volunteers and supporters, including the support from area businesses and foundations in our community. Operating expenses are minimized wherever possible by utilizing in-kind donations of food and goods as well as thousands of volunteer hours. Our financial needs are mostly for shelter expenses – utilities, insurance, staff salaries, etc. Material needs such as food, bedding, and clothing are mostly provided by our supporters.

3. **Why Fund Now?**

Why these funds are needed now is simple:

From an initiative perspective, many public funds are now focusing on diversion (keeping people out of emergency shelters) and housing options, with frankly the desire for shelters to play a less important role. However, we are always needed, whether people like to admit it or not, and we are often the fulcrum that holds the process together within the Housing First system. Although we are asked to do more and more to help this vulnerable population within Chester County, we face the challenge of dwindling public funds. Our expenses doubled along with our size in 2010 and increased again with the need for Case Management, which used to be handled externally. We have met this challenge by increasing our outreach to our supportive community. Finding affordable, and appropriate permanent housing remains a

challenge in Chester County, where housing costs continue to escalate. Many find themselves in need of our services and wonder how they arrived at this point, especially if they are working and have always been self-sufficient until an episode, or a series of episodes, altered their path to lead to our door. The homeless are often invisible, especially in an area of notable wealth such as Chester County. But they are not invisible to the staff and volunteers of Safe Harbor of Chester County! To meet their needs, we are faced with having to raise about 88% of our budget through private funds. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are also being contacted by former residents seeking assistance due to the loss of income, insurance, or who have new health challenges impacting their survival.

Plus, there are several growing factors affecting the availability of housing in Chester County. The first is development. Our area is seeing unprecedented new construction of townhomes and condominiums that are not affordable to average or low-income residents. These are being built at a rapid rate to accommodate a transient Philadelphia workforce that wants more property for their money and move to the Philadelphia suburbs. So, they are relocating to Chester County with Philadelphia salaries, and they consistently out-bid initial asking prices. With low-interest mortgage rates and high real estate demands, existing housing is being sold for a huge profit after being on the market for just one day. Also, amid this pandemic, renovating or updating existing housing has become very difficult due to the increased cost of construction materials, so owners are choosing to sell, and more apartment owners are selling their rental property because of the huge profits to be made. Simply, the availability of affordable housing to rent or purchase is very scarce in Chester County for the average or below-average income level.

Safe Harbor of Chester County runs our emergency shelter program 365 days a year and has for the past 25+ years. Our goal, ultimately, is to place everyone in safe housing or another medical or mental health facility that the homeless person who presents to us for help is best able to find services. The need for Safe Harbor of Chester County as an emergency shelter remains strong. We make a difference for those people and work with them throughout their stay to see that all available resources and options are presented to them. As long as our services are needed, we will be here. Any financial support for our ongoing mission at Safe Harbor of Chester County will be used efficiently and effectively to make a difference for the men, women, and community we serve.

4. **Impact and Results**

The impact of Safe Harbor of Chester County is felt strongly and personally by every individual coming here for help. For the community, we keep people off the streets and provide respite when there are dangerous weather conditions that could result in tragic outcomes. We provide safe shelter, food, goods, and a tremendous amount of support services to men and women experiencing homelessness, and a Community Lunch program for anyone in the community. Along with the free lunch, we offer a daily pantry from the donated groceries we receive for anyone who needs to supplement their pantry at home. We track our efforts and evaluate our progress and the effectiveness of our programs. We review resources to seek out “best practices” for all areas of our operations. In 2019, Safe Harbor of Chester County began resident tracking of goal impact and referral success into Salesforce. We hope this database will enable us to review our efforts and identify resident trends that may both help us advocate more effectively as well as identify patterns that might be useful to community decision-makers.

The **Chester County Community Foundation** has been a key part of our support system on many levels and for many years. We appreciate all that you have done for our neighbors in need within our midst!