

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: 1/26/22

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Fund for Women and Girls
Address: 113 E Evans St Ste A, West Chester, PA 19380
Phone: 484-356-0940
Website: www.thefundcc.org
Year Incorporated: 1996
FEIN: 76-0724241

INTERIM ED/CEO Name: Mary Beth Morrissey
ED/CEO E-mail: mbmorrissey@thefundcc.org
Board Chair Name: Denise Wine
Board Chair Approval (check here): X
Primary Contact Name: Dana Wiley
Primary Contact E-mail: dwiley@thefundcc.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: The Fund leads and unites the community through philanthropy and advocacy to ensure that women and girls have resources and opportunities to thrive.

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: In our 2021 Fiscal Year, more than 16,500 Chester County community members' lives were touched through our grantmaking, education and advocacy programming. More than 13,500 were women and girls.

Annual Budget \$577,660 (FY22 budget)	<input type="text" value="4"/> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
78% of budget for program expenses	<input type="text" value="18"/> # of Board Volunteers
6% of budget for administrative expenses	<input type="text" value="85"/> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
16% of budget for fundraising expenses	est. 3500/year # of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>	

Top 3-5 funding sources: Claneil Foundation, Lily Foundation and Mary Beth and John Morrissey

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: \$6500

Proposal Summary: The Fund for Women and Girls humbly requests a general operating support grant for our Girls Advisory Board and our GirlGov Chester County programming. For more info go to: <https://www.thefundcc.org/girls-programming/>

II. 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. 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.





CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

A. The Fund for Women and Girls history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

The Fund for Women and Girls (The Fund) leads and unites the community through philanthropy and advocacy to ensure that women and girls have resources and opportunities to thrive, and thereby the lives of all members of the Chester County community, through grantmaking, education, and advocacy. Established in 1996, the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls is the first endowment-based women's fund in the state of Pennsylvania, and one of over 200 women's funds in the world working collaboratively with our local community to offer philanthropic and educational programs. When women and girls have equality and security, our communities become stronger and more vibrant for everyone. In March 2021, the organization name was legally changed from the "Chester County Fund for Women and Girls" to "The Fund for Women and Girls: Igniting Change in Chester County."

Over the past 25 years, The Fund has awarded over \$3.8 million in grants to 82 nonprofit organizations working across Chester County to enhance their work ability to create healthy and vibrant futures for women and girls at the grassroots level. In addition, The Fund strives to raise awareness of issues critical to women and girls through its educational and technical assistance programs. These include, but are not limited to, raising future leaders through our award-winning girls' leadership development and grantmaking initiatives, Girls Advisory Board (GAB) and GirlGov Chester County (a yearlong program designed for rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders providing deep, meaningful hands-on experiences with peers, community partners, and elected officials) as well as our other community education programs and our Blueprint Research Report that educate and connect the community on the evolving needs of women and girls.

We embrace the challenge to grow our capacity and grantmaking capability, so we may tackle deep and persisting needs within our county through four community-identified priorities for women and girls: core needs, economic opportunity, health and wellness, and achieving gender and racial equity.

We are a leading connector and convener of resources, ideas, people and information, bringing together diverse populations around a shared commitment to the well-being and self-determination of women and girls.

1. Key Achievements

- **1996** - Established the first endowment-based women's foundation in Pennsylvania, utilizing a unique grant-making model in that funding decisions are made by a group of diverse independent individuals connected to Chester County. This model, our Grants Allocation Committee (GAC), by consensus, grants money to organizations that improve the lives of women and girls and ensures that the Fund is addressing the needs of our county through this inclusive and community-oriented process. This model continues to this day.
- **2005**, The Fund conducted the *Blueprint Report*, the first comprehensive assessment of the needs of women and girls in Chester County. New updates have been completed every five years, with the fourth edition of the report to be released in 2022. Our Blueprint Report remains

the only gender-specific research and awareness project in Chester County. Our Blueprint Report can be found at: <http://www.thefundcc.org/research/>

First *Girls Advisory Board* (GAB) with 18 high school girls.

- **2007** - GAB is the recipient of the 2007 “Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy” award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.
- **2012** - GAB co-hosted the first National Girls Grant Making Conference with Women’s Funding Network
- **2015** - Named the *Mosteller Community Service Award* winner by the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce.
- **2016-2018** - Named the *Community Outreach Partner* for the Chester County Women’s Business Connection (WBC).

First *Champions of Change* Event, with first “Gladys Black Women of Distinction” Individual and Corporate Champion of Change awards

Introduced ‘Moving Her Forward’ Impact Grants, allowing for nimble responsiveness to pressing community needs, with \$20,000 awarded to four local organizations on the front lines of social impact.

- **2019** - Introduced *GirlGov Chester County* in partnership with the Women and Girls Fund’s award-winning GirlGov program in Pittsburgh, PA.

First *Girls in Action* Summit held.

- **2020** - Core Grants Program moved to all multi-year grants.

In celebration of the Centennial anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment giving most women the vote, The Fund partnered with the West Chester Public Arts Commission and a local artist, commissioning a women’s suffrage mural unveiled in fall 2020.

- **2021** - 25th Anniversary of The Fund

Rebranded from “Chester County Fund for Women and Girls” to “The Fund for Women and Girls: Igniting Change in Chester County”

- **To date:** The Fund has awarded over 425 grants that address needs and challenges facing women, girls, their families and/or the nonprofit agencies who serve them, totaling more than \$3.8 million in grant awards to 82 Chester County agencies and grassroots organizations.

2. Funding Request

Description of Key Initiatives:

Our **Girls’ Programming** continues on a strong foot, with girls engaged more than ever in wanting to learn leadership and philanthropic skills; more about what the issues are for women in their community; and, how to use their unique voices to effectively advocate on issues that matter to them. Their efforts help achieve greater gender and racial equity for Chester County women and girls, so they can be financially stable, safe and secure.

Since 2005, more than **200** girls from **27** different Chester County area high and other secondary schools have passed through The **Fund’s Girls Advisory Board (GAB)**, one of only a dozen philanthropic leadership development programs nationwide designed exclusively for teenage girls. Collectively, our GAB classes have awarded over 90 grants totaling more than \$340,000 to

programs that aim to improve the lives of girls and young women in the county. The 17th GAB cohort began in Fall 2021. GAB utilizes a comprehensive philanthropy-based leadership curriculum to empower these young women with the rare opportunity for sustained, deep and impactful experiences that will stay with them the rest of their lives:

“Being a part of GAB allowed me to adopt better insights into the problems of my community and learn how important collaborating with others and sharing ideas is to make a real difference.”

– GAB participant

As these young women engage in strategic grantmaking, they learn about needs affecting others, how to work collaboratively, with compassion and through consensus. In the current GAB cohort, 22 diverse teenage girls from all over Chester County are participating, with seven girls returning to be on the GAB Leadership Council and 15 are new participants.

GirlGov Chester County is a year-long civic engagement program designed to provide rising 10th, 11th or 12th graders with an opportunity to learn firsthand about civics, government, advocacy, policy, community involvement, women’s history, and leadership. Our 3rd year started this Fall with a retreat, which includes time for team-building. The 2021-22 program continues to be facilitated by Fund staff, interns and the Girls Programming Planning Committee (which includes community volunteers) as well as partnering with the GirlGov program and staff of the Women and Girls Foundation (WGF) of Pittsburgh, PA. These twenty young women (ten first year and ten returning 2nd year ‘mentor’ members) will work with their peers to develop and lead their own advocacy campaigns in small committees. “GirlGovers” will continue to participate in weekly meetings including with topic experts, legislators and other community leaders. The bulk of campaign work will happen in the spring, with the fall focused more on racial justice advocacy and educating the girls on these topics/providing resources and ways to engage with elected government officials and advocates related to their campaign topics.

The program will culminate (if the pandemic cooperates this year) with a three-day summit in Harrisburg in June of 2022 with WGF’s GirlGov participants (We have virtual and hybrid options for this as a backup plan as we’ve done in the previous two years). Together, the young women from western and eastern Pennsylvania will meet with state legislators and other leaders to discuss the initiatives they developed throughout the year on matters most important to them.

To measure progress and impact of the GAB and GirlGov programs, participants will again complete pre- and post-program surveys and participate in exit interviews, which detail positive and challenging aspects of their experience. Previous GirlGov graduates have been assessed to have increased knowledge on civic engagement and policy from the start to end of the program. We will also assess any confidence increases of the participants. We will continue to work with WGF to help adjust measuring tools, best practices, and technical support for the GirlGov program. Evaluation of the GAB program will continue to look at change in knowledge of community issues and levels of leadership skills and confidence. Guest presenters also provide input. Staff will review, share, and analyze results with the Planning Committee and make recommendations for the future.

“I became so much more confident in myself and my abilities. GirlGov gave me the tools to express my voice and use my passion to create real change. – GirlGov member

“Through GirlGov, I learned how important it is to listen to others, when advocating for change. Although we were virtual this year, I loved the fact that I was able to learn from like-minded individuals who came from different backgrounds.” – GirlGov member

The 3rd annual **Girls in Action Summit** was held on Oct. 2, 2021, with over 50 attendees (despite the continued resurgence of new COVID variants). The Summit engages high school girls throughout Chester County for an empowering morning of action. Attendees learn about the deep and varied needs in their communities while engaging in strategic grantmaking. This year, we were thrilled to welcome keynote speaker Lynette Medley, Founder and CEO of No More Secrets: Mind Body Spirit Inc. An expert in areas of gender justice, racial justice, reproductive justice and menstrual justice, her passion lies in promoting inclusivity. Recently, Lynette and her daughter Nya opened The SPOT Period — the nation's first crowdfunded menstrual hub — in Philadelphia. There was also an Expo, where attendees could participate in interactive activities, learn about local girls with their own businesses and other resources for girls. We plan to continue this successful annual event next year and hope that we will again have over 100 registrants as before the pandemic.

The Blueprint Report, produced in conjunction with West Chester University, is an objective and comprehensive assessment of the status of women and girls in Chester County. The 4th edition, to be released in 2022, provides critical data across our priority areas, informs our grantmaking and presents steps to progress forward so that our community can be proactive in making life better for all women in Chester County. This edition will include special sections on the impact of COVID-19 and the economic crises. Through our Blueprint Ambassadors, the Fund is committed to educating the community on these findings and discussions on action steps and using the findings to inform our grantmaking.

Report findings continue to be the foundation for ongoing educational programs, grantmaking initiatives and existing communication efforts. We also continue to partner with corporations and organizations to disseminate the Report's findings to the community at large with a focus on strengthening our role as a catalyst for action. The goal behind these presentations is to bring the data and trends to the forefront to build the community's awareness around issues impacting women and girls and to inform conversations and planning. For example, a group of African American women leaders formed and continue to meet on issues revealed in the Report. We keep our finger on the pulse of this community initiative and others that arise from the Blueprint and support them.

The Fund's **Grants Allocation Committee** and **Girls Advisory Board** serve as national models for community-led altruism and leadership development. These philanthropic programs convene community volunteers and collaboratively create sustainable change in the lives of women and girls to ultimately make our community stronger.

Need to be addressed:

The Girls Programming (including *GAB* and *GirlGov Chester County programs* and the annual *Girls in Action Summit*), offers opportunities for young women in 10th, 11th and 12th grades to realize their potential and equip themselves with the tools and confidence to use it through creating sustainable change. Our programs are designed to foster self-discovery, personal transformation and inner strength among participants as they collectively work to address societal issues that impact them. Many of the girls who enter GAB, enter with little to no experience about philanthropy or grantmaking, but all know they want to do something to improve the lives of their neighbors, families and peers.

Based on interests expressed by GAB girls through our post-GAB surveys and exit interviews, The Fund added our GirlGov program, so they can learn about civic engagement, policy-making and how government works with hands-on experience and through elected officials and other topic experts.

The participants also requested to learn about potential career paths, including entrepreneurial pursuits, which resulted The Fund to add new opportunities in and between these programs. Many of the girls identify issues that they experience in their daily lives, either directly or through their peers and in larger society, such as immigration and refugee services for women and girls, access to mental and reproductive health education and services, environmental concerns, racial injustice and support and education for women and girls experiencing violence as issues they want to address through their program experiences.

By working as a team, these young women can share their perspectives and learn and grow from one another in a supportive, yet challenging environment. Not only do we educate girls about the positive impact of philanthropy and civic engagement on our communities, we also provide them the resources, mentorships and education to become active community leaders at an age when most would discount their own 'voices' and abilities to facilitate meaningful and significant change; creating socially conscious leaders of tomorrow by fostering inter and intra-personal transformation today.

Why it is important to fund these programs now:

Support for our Girls Programming enables us to continue bring our nationally-recognized GAB program and the GirlGov Chester County programs and the Girls in Action Summit each year to new cohorts of high school-aged girls seeking an opportunity to grow. Such opportunities are needed now more than ever! The 2021-22 programs bring a diverse group of girls together from a wide range of backgrounds, experiences and interests. It is important to engage teenage girls at this pivotal moment, as they develop into young adults and eventually, the next generation that will be at the helm of business, industry and culture. We need to empower our teenage population so that they can be leaders and innovators and have the resources and network to change such damaging statistics that impact the health and well-being of women and girls. This is exactly what The Fund's Girls Programming aims to do.

3. How impact and results will be demonstrated

To measure progress of the GAB and GirlGov programs, The Fund staff and our partners will communicate regularly to ensure the curricula are followed. They will integrate input from the Girls Programming Committee, guest presenters and Women and Girls Fund (Pittsburgh) to make any modifications as needed. At the end of the programs, GAB and GirlGov members will participate in exit interviews which detail positive and challenging aspects of their experience. Staff will review, share, and analyze results with the Girls Programming Committee and make recommendations for the future. In addition, organizations that are selected for funding by GAB and the Girls in Action Summit will submit a report at the end of the grant period, documenting the impact of the funds given to them.

On behalf of all of us at The Fund and the young women who participate in our Girls Programming, thank you for your consideration to support our Girls Advisory Board and GirlGov Chester County programs, and the Girls in Action Summit.

4. Executive Director Transition

When the previous Executive Director gave a month's notice before moving on to a new position at the Nonprofit Finance Fund, the Board moved swiftly to assign an Interim Executive Director, Mary Beth Morrissey (a former board member who ended her 2nd board term in June 2021). Ms. Morrissey has been involved in many initiatives of The Fund and up to date on our initiatives in progress as well as having corporate financial and supervisory skill strengths. In addition, an Executive Search Committee was formed, and a search firm selected. A formal announcement was made to the public to introduce both updates. Interviews of promising director prospects have been underway, and the expectation is that there will be a new director hired and in place soon.

5. Strategic Plan Status

Having completed the initiatives as outlined in our 2018-2021 three-year Strategic Plan, we began our next strategic planning process in August 2021 and contracted with the consulting group Strategy Arts. A Work Group comprised of Board Members was formed to help guide the process and ensure its integrity. Several meetings of the group took place last fall and the decision was made to wait to start the formal planning process with Strategy Arts until the new director is in place.

In the meantime, Staff and Board are working on ongoing and planned initiatives (such as finalizing and launch of our 4th edition of our Blueprint Research Report) as well as new recommended strategic development initiatives that came out of our consultation with an eight-member Compass Pro Bono team over nine-months spanning 2020-2021.