

**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 April 4, 2022

Contact Information

Organization Name: Coatesville Youth Initiative
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Board Chair Name: Jennifer C.

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Website: www.coatesvilleyouthinitiative.org
Year Incorporated: 2008
FEIN: 46-3277499

Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Sue Moore
Primary Contact E-mail: sue@coatesvilleyouthinitiative.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: The mission of the Coatesville Youth Initiative is to contribute to a vibrant future for Coatesville by engaging youth in experiences that support their success in school and in life, and by uniting a wide range of partners to make the community better for everyone.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):
The greater Coatesville area including the 8 municipalities and the City of Coatesville.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Annual Budget \$ 976,448	6	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
68 % of budget for program expenses	11	# of Board Volunteers
18 % of budget for administrative expenses	_____	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
14 % of budget for fundraising expenses	_____	# of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>		

Top 3-5 funding sources:

The Claneil Foundation, The Marshall-Reynolds Foundation, PECO, The Applestone

Foundation

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building ___ or General Operating __X__

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: \$ 7,500.00

Proposal Summary: See Attachment



2022 GRANT PROPOSAL FOR THE CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FROM THE COATESVILLE YOUTH INITIATIVE

Overview

We are requesting support for the Coatesville Youth Initiative's 2022 general operating budget.

Brief Organizational History

Since 2009, CYI has been serving the City of Coatesville and its youth. We are a non-profit committed to youth led, transformational community change. Our mission is to contribute to a vibrant future for Coatesville by engaging youth in experiences that support their success in school and in life and by uniting a wide range of partners to make the community better for everyone.

Statement of Need/Why Now?

The target population for CYI programs is youth/young adults, ages 5-18 living in the greater Coatesville area, with an emphasis on meeting the needs of underserved youth living in our poorer communities. CYI is headquartered in the City of Coatesville, Chester County, one of nine municipalities in the Coatesville Area School District (CASD). Although Chester County is one of the wealthiest communities in PA, the CASD does not reflect the overall prosperity of the county. Within the school district, there are three contiguous municipalities – the City of Coatesville and neighboring boroughs of South Coatesville and Modena, all of which house a growing concentration of poor, underserved, minority residents. According to 2017 census data, 31.5% of Coatesville residents have an income below the poverty level, which is 60.3% greater than the poverty level of 12.5% across the entire state of PA. The COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricane Ida have had a tremendous impact on the Coatesville community, creating additional gaps in resources and disproportionately effecting our most vulnerable residents.

Distinctiveness

Our ongoing success can be attributed to the fact that our program focus stems from evidence-based research from the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) showing youth are struggling to deal with “everyday problems” such as substance use, truancy, poor decision-making, following bad influences, etc. which negatively impacts their current situation as well as their futures, including their ability to secure and/or maintain employment. We train youth to be leaders as a means to protect them from developing health and behavioral problems that often manifest in substance abuse issues.

CYI is committed to aligning our programs to meet those needs and we currently focus on four key areas:

- Youth Development
- Family Support
- Substance Prevention Efforts
- Community Collaborations

Under our four focus areas we have several programs which support our mission and desire for youth empowerment which help us press towards our goals in each of the above areas.

Youth Development

Our summer **Service Corps program** is geared toward youth ages 14-18 and is a highly selective, rigorous, but fun 8-week summer leadership experience. This 8-week programs combines employment and work development experiences with a challenging life and leadership skills development curriculum.

By sharing their voices in the **Game Changers Youth Council**, a group of middle and high school students meet regularly to discuss ways to carry our community toward a position future. We currently have 30 students from the Coatesville Area School District participating in this program which runs from September through May annually and we are on target to hold 19 meetings by the end of May 2022 meeting our program projected 36 hours.

During the week-long **Camp Quiet Thunder**, youth ages 12-14 balance structure, free play, and discovery of the natural environment while building social, life, and leadership skills. Camp focuses on improving outdoor living skills, a greater understanding of the Brandywine River and Watershed and the need for its protection and preservation, and improved leadership skills.

Family support

We know that a key to youth success is a productive level of effective and positive parental/family engagement and support. We believe a community can only be as strong as each family unit and that a family that plays together, stays together. We know we can reduce stress and strengthen relationships when we develop a network of caring adults who share resources, encouragement, inspiration, and motivation. We enhance family relationships so families will be strong and have a nurturing network.

We provide ongoing support through our **Moms Café**. Moms Café serves as a support group and safe haven for women of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures who identify as a female parent, caregiver, or mother-figure and who resides in the greater Coatesville community including the eight municipalities and the City of Coatesville. Our top four desired outcomes are: empowering women through education and skill building to be better moms, strengthening relationships between the women in their peer groups and the wider community, equipping women to be proactive in their homes, in the lives of their family, and in the community as leaders, and lastly increasing access to resources so they can be successful in these efforts.

Substance Prevention Efforts

We are committed to fostering collaboration among community members at all levels to prevent and reduce the underage use of alcohol and other drugs. We provide substance prevention education and programming. Our Prescription Drug Take Back Drop Boxes promote the safe disposal of unused medication.

Community Collaborations

We strive to develop a culture of generosity, sharing and openness to maximize all our collective resources. We partner in the community-wide Back-to-School Event to bring in over 1,500 backpacks, fully packed with school supplies, which are then distributed to K-12 Coatesville students.

Community Coalition:

CYI facilitates the CYI Community Coalition. The Coalition brings together a multisectoral group that addresses youth/community needs and focuses on local, data-based issues to bring about community change and 43 organizations participate. The goal is to organize diverse interest groups to join their human and material resources to produce a specific change that they are unable to deliver as independent individuals or separate organizations. Our coalition represents a collaborative approach to engaging communities in creating and sustaining conditions that promote and maintain behaviors associated with widespread health and well-being.

All CYI programs are developed with the intent to reduce youth risk factors such as:

Youth feeling a low attachment to their community. Coatesville youth are not proud of their community and do not feel safe. Research shows that youth who live in disorganized communities (i.e. neighborhoods that are not safe) are at a greater risk of participating in problem behaviors, including drug use.

A lack of prosocial opportunities. Without a central gathering place or location to house programs and activities, youth typically do not have anywhere safe to go, particularly between the hours of 6 and 9pm. Research shows that youth who live in neighborhoods where there are few opportunities for youth to be pro-socially involved are at a greater risk of participating in problem behaviors.

Coatesville youth have limited access to improve their economic opportunity and are unable to end the generational poverty cycles that exist. According to a recent study commissioned by the Brandywine Health Foundation and conducted by Natural Lands Trust, disproportionate rates of poverty, unemployment and youth population growth are three key factors affecting the Coatesville community. In Chester County, Coatesville has significantly higher proportions of residents below the age of 25, and 30% of those over the age of 16 are not in the workforce. 46% of children under 18 live below the poverty line, up from 34% in 2010.

We work to mitigate the following obstacles for youth:

- Deficits in career skills and leadership training
- Limited financial literacy
- Economic and logistical barriers to employment
- Negative community perceptions that adversely affect potential resources and limit opportunity
- Limited connections to consistent, caring adults

Impact/Outcome Measurements

We put great effort into developing criteria and matrices for measuring the effectiveness of our programs and each program has a different measuring stick. Youth development, leadership, and community awareness aspects are automatically built into each of our programs. We do a lot of pre and post program surveys with our participants to help evaluate program effectiveness. We consider community member and participant input. Basically, in conversation with participants, participants' parents/guardians, community members, etc. we often ask what they thought of the program, what they would like to see us include, and any opinions they have. Sometimes this casual way of getting information fills in the gaps of survey results and other hard data. We consider the number served and number participating but we find that doesn't always depict an accurate measurement for success. Many of our programs exist to equip and empower and don't always produce tangible results but are about forming a strong foundation for character building, increasing confidence and skills, providing resources, and equipping our youth to achieve success in school, in life, and the community.

Sustainability and Funding

CYI is deep programmatically and comprises 68% of our operating budget, and we take great efforts to ensure sustainability because we primarily serve a low-income population and do not charge fees for program participation except, we do require a small \$75 registration fee for Camp Quiet Thunder but have scholarships available for those who can't afford the fee. We continually explore a wide range of funding opportunities to ensure that our programs and activities can continue beyond the life of any one funding cycle. We seek support from diverse sources including government entities, foundations, gifts from individual donors, and in-kind donations from organizations and businesses in the area. Your grant money will help us to continue to be able to provide life-changing programs for a culturally diverse sector of low-income, underserved youth in Coatesville and within the wider community. The benefits are priceless.