

CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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Date: September 9, 2022

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Arc of Chester County
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Year Incorporated: 1952
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ED/CEO Name: Jeanne Meikrantz
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Board Chair Name: Adam Lamb
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Dr. Susan Vanscovich

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: To advocate, educate and provide services to empower individuals with disabilities and their families to enhance the quality of their lives.

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: The Arc of Chester County provides services and programs for individuals with disabilities from birth through end of life and their families so they can live successfully and to fullest potential as well as with respect, dignity, equity, and inclusion.

Annual Budget \$ <u>22,849,593</u>	<u>541</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>94</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>16</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>5</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>780</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>1</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>69,899</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>		

Top 3-5 funding sources: Government (Federal, State, County) 96.95%
Private Grants & Fundraising 2.20%
Other (Private Fees & Interest) .85%
100%

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

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 3,500

Proposal Summary: The Arc respectfully requests support of its Family Support Services (FSS) Program which provides life essential services to adults with disabilities and their families. The Arc's FSS program provides individuals with disabilities the opportunity to live, work and fully participate in their community through a variety of in-home and community services including activities of daily living. This important program serves individuals with disabilities throughout their lifespan and focus on ensuring growth and success in social and communication skills, health and safety and other individualized goals. Public funding sources only partially cover what this vulnerable population in Chester County needs to live with dignity, respect, equity, and inclusion.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

History & Distinctiveness

The Arc of Chester County was founded in 1952 by local parents seeking to improve the quality of life for their children with disabilities. Few programs and services existed then, and many individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities were institutionalized. Over the past seventy years, The Arc has evolved and expanded services beyond just children to support individuals with disabilities with a lifetime of services in five program areas: Advocacy, Children Early Learning Services & Programs, Family Support Services, Comprehensive Employment Services and Agency with Choice. All service delivery areas are dedicated to enhancing the dignity and promoting the independence and welfare of individuals with developmental, intellectual, autism, and other disabilities. The Arc works to ensure that this important population chooses how they live, learn, work, and spend their leisure time as well as lives with dignity, respect, and inclusion in our community. The Arc of Chester County is a leading provider of a lifetime of programs and services for individuals of all ages with disabilities and their families serving more than 3,000 people annually throughout Chester County.

Funding Request

Family Support Services provides individuals with disabilities and their families, with a lifetime of home and community-based services in one-on-one and group settings. These services are designed to meet each person and family's individual needs. In-Home and Community Supports such as daily living skills, money management, meal preparation, medication assistance, accessing community resources, pre-employment activities, and social, civic, and volunteer opportunities are identified and tailored to meet the needs of each individual and family. Services are provided to individuals with disabilities living in a private home and give important relief and respite to caregivers and aging parents. They are provided by skilled and qualified staff and focus on improving and growing activities of daily living, social and communication skills, pre-employment, and individual goals, while addressing any behavior support needs. FSS also supports our individuals living independently with disabilities ensuring their access to healthcare and that they are supported with medical management while navigating their neighborhoods, the public and the community.

The Family Support Services' recreation and community inclusion offerings are designed to foster friendships and independence thorough social events and activities. Caregivers can find comfort knowing their loved ones are enjoying events and activities while they enjoy personal time off from their caregiving responsibilities. Recreation and community inclusion programming is led by skilled and trained staff and volunteers and is designed to meet each person's individualized needs. For individuals with disabilities, engaging in social and recreational activities ensures community inclusion and provides the opportunity to enhance important life-skill building, while also providing critical respite for families and caregivers.

Key Initiatives

The Arc of Chester County has three main components that support ensuring a successful outcome with an individual receiving The Arc's Family Support Services. First, an individualized service plan (ISP) is developed for the participant outlining personal goals and outcomes within a specified timeline. Second, the services provided are recorded, and assessed in accordance with The Arc's Quality Management Plan. Third, The Arc of Chester County executes an annual satisfaction survey of its services to all participants and/or the family of the participant. These steps and the key performance indicators captured, assessed, and evaluated ensure quality service delivery and participant success. Arc

staff and managers have daily and weekly oversight over reviews of progress, which are then collated into the quarterly reviews in accordance with The Arc’s Quality Management Plan.

The Need

The Arc’s Family Support Services keep individuals with disabilities living healthy and fulfilling lives. Without The Arc’s quality Family Support Services program some caregivers would be faced with placing their loved ones in high-cost residential living due to the inability to care for them, burn out or threats of loss of their own employment. And for those without caregivers and/or family, these individuals with disabilities most likely not be able to live as independently as they choose or even survive at all. The Arc’s FSS program supports nearly 70 participants who are partially funded by a government waiver however more than half are living below the poverty level. Despite adversity, year over year, The Arc has remained an extremely efficient and fiscally responsible nonprofit organization operating on a five percent administrative cost structure with 94 percent of all funding going directly to the delivery of programs and services, with only a one percent fundraising cost. The Arc’s biggest challenge remains the single-payer structure in which it operates within. As a primarily government funded entity, The Arc, and other providers like it, are significantly and chronically underfunded by the government and subject to the priorities of the changing administrations and leadership.

Budget

**The Arc of Chester County Family Support Services Budget
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023**

Income

Government Fees	\$	503,500
Private Fees		29,911
Grants/Contributions		124,780
<i>Chester County Community Foundation</i>		<i>3,500</i>
Total	\$	661,691

Expenses

Salaries/Wages	\$	388,278
Payroll Taxes/Benefits		90,984
Consultants/Professional Fees		15,000
Occupancy		19,250
Postage /Communication		15,882
Equipment & Supplies/Technology		21,493
Transportation/Travel		103,475
Other (Administration, Staff Development, Miscellaneous)		46,129
Total	\$	700,491

Impact

The Arc’s measurement of success will be that its FSS participants are getting food, proper healthcare, maintaining employment and living healthier, safer, and community-inclusive lives. It is The Arc’s Family Support Services program that is ensuring that these individuals living with aging or elderly caregivers or independently are successfully navigating the resources available to them, especially during this pandemic when face to face service delivery has been so essential but extremely challenging. Participant success is also measured not only in a 95 percent or higher satisfaction rate on service delivery in surveys but in the reports of wellness and good health.

A formal measurement of success can be seen in the 2021 Annual Agency Satisfaction Survey which showed that 93 percent of respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the program(s) and service(s) they received, 94 percent of respondents indicated that they would recommend The Arc of Chester County to a close friend or associate and 96 percent of respondents indicated that The Arc of Chester County service(s) improved or enhanced the quality of the lives of the recipient of the service(s).

Conclusion

The reality is that without Family Support Services being provided by The Arc, these individuals with disabilities would not survive, and/or caregivers would be faced with placing their loved ones in high-cost residential living. The Arc is dedicated to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are provided a lifetime of services and supports by working tirelessly to educate the community, facilitate tolerance and acceptance and by advocating with legislators and community leaders for increased public funding. The Arc of Chester County remains true to its roots of safeguarding individuals with disabilities and their families so that they may have the same benefits and quality of life as everyone else. It is The Arc's aggressive annual fundraising efforts that works to secure the private donations needed to help cover the remaining operational costs of the FSS program. Some private pay services are offered, however, families and individuals with disabilities are unable to afford this type of specialized care. The Arc of Chester County is infinitely grateful for the on-going partnership and support of the Chester County Community Foundation and its donor advised funds.