

GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

- The Chester County Community Foundation **connects people who care with the causes that matter**, so their philanthropy makes a difference **now & forever**.
- We are **a collection of Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds** with **\$5M + granted annually** to nonprofits in Chester County & beyond.
- **99%** of our grants are made by our generous Fund Advisors, who make grant decisions all year.

Proposals submitted by nonprofits are considered for 2 types of grants:

Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds (No Deadline)

- ◇ Grants **focus on Chester County** causes & issues, but are not limited to Chester County.
- ◇ Charitable nonprofits working **in all fields of interest** are considered for grant awards. (I.e. arts, culture, & humanities; education; community improvement; environment; religion; health; & human services)
- ◇ **General operating** grants are encouraged. Nonprofits should be specific about their mission, goals, & measurable outcomes.
- ◇ Proposals can be submitted **anytime all year**.
- ◇ Grant decisions are made **intermittently** all year, as Fund Advisors desire.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$500-\$7,500**.

Fund for Chester County Capacity Building Grants (Due 9/15)

- ◇ For eligibility in this grant program, nonprofits must be **located in & serve Chester County**.
- ◇ Nonprofits **budgets** must be **\$500,000 or less**.
- ◇ The goal of capacity building grantmaking is to **strengthen the effectiveness of NPO's serving the Chester County region**, in areas including:
 - Mission, Vision & Strategy
 - Governance & Leadership
 - Partnerships & Collaborations
 - Operations & Technology
 - Fundraising, Development & Marketing
- ◇ Proposals must be submitted by **September 15** to be eligible for consideration.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$500-\$5,000**, with monies distributed by **February**.

- 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)-698-8211** or grants@chescocf.org with any questions.

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

9.15.22

Contact Information

Organization Name: Sow Good Now
Address: 3002 Tall Oaks Lane Newtown Sq 19073
Phone: 215-820-2450
Website: sowgoodnow.org
Year Incorporated: 2018
FEIN: 83-0997543

ED/CEO Name: Mary Fischer-Nassib
ED/CEO E-mail: mary@sowgoodnow.org
Board Chair Name: Betsy Curtis
Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒
Primary Contact Name: Mary Fischer-Nassib

Board of Directors

Primary Contact E-mail:
mary@sowgoodnow.org

Organization Information:

Capacity: Education (Youth Philanthropy)

Mission: GROW THE NEXT GENERATION OF PHILANTHROPIC ATHLETES BY: Teaching Philanthropy: By offering opportunities for service learning through sports. Building Relationships in Diverse Communities and partnering with their leaders and the causes they support. Inspiring Athletes to Connect with their Passion by engaging them in a lifelong practice of giving and sharing with a spirit of generosity.

Geographic Area Served *Mainly West Chester and Malvern in Chester County*

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: High School and College Athletes serve youth from high poverty areas. Annually we serve over 700 young people between the ages of 8 and 22.

Annual Budget \$ 315,000	1 full 3 part # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
80 % of budget for program expenses	12 # of Board Volunteers
15 % of budget for administrative expenses	12 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
5 % of budget for fundraising expenses	400+ # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total	

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building ☐ or General Operating ☒

Sow Good Now needs funding in many of areas, however, this proposal is a specific request:

☒ Technology and operations

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$7500

- Sow Good Now programs are growing and thriving. More teams and groups have been reaching out to get started and existing programs want to expand, and our data is becoming unwieldy. We receive donations from individuals, foundations, DAFs, employee matching platforms, PayPal, Venmo, and other sources and attention to detail is critical for accurate reporting. Additionally, we work with over 23

schools and teams and 700 volunteers. If awarded a grant in February, we would use the funds to support **TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS**

Volunteer Management -- Technology Improvements - Systems

Proposal Summary: Sow Good Now is in its fourth year and we have resumed our pace now that Covid has receded. Your support of our organization will help grow philanthropy from the ground up - through our youth and the sports they love.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. Nonprofit's history, goals;

The Sow Good Now Story: Founded in July of 2018 by three mothers who are former collegiate athletes and who have raised athletes, Sow Good Now is a 501c3 non-profit that utilizes organized youth sporting activities as a platform for philanthropic education and inspiration. High performing, high character athletes engage younger athletes in ways they can practice sharing their time, talent, treasures, and ties. Sow Good Now partners donors with sports teams and non-profits to increase community collaboration and more intentional giving. Everyone has unique gifts to offer the world and the Sow Good Now GiveBack Model is a space for those gifts to be shared. By bringing diverse community members together through the sports they love and integrating a spirit of generosity with active volunteerism and participatory grantmaking, a new and sustainable ecosystem of philanthropic giving is established. The Sow Good Now GiveBack model transforms the individual athlete by inspiring passion, providing philanthropic education, and developing leadership skills through decision making in participatory grantmaking. Communities are transformed through a four-year commitment to host GiveBack Clinics and long-lasting relationships are built through peer and near peer mentoring and connecting community leaders. Sow Good Now GiveBack Clinics are an opportunity for funders to share power, lift youth voices and apply innovation in addressing social issues for a better tomorrow.



2. Key achievements

Sow Good Now has continued to strengthen its Board leadership by adding a CPA, attorney, educator, and coach to our team. This leadership has allowed us to grow our footprint and donor base as well as become more strategic with our planning and execution of programs. Currently we just finished a softball GiveBack, and will elevate a volleyball, ice hockey, and golf GiveBack the last quarter of 2022. Please see attached Impact Reports for some of our recent achievements and we would be happy to provide impact reports from our recent/upcoming GiveBacks when available.

Distinctiveness

- The SGN GiveBack is distinct because it has two components. The first component is a one-day sports clinic where a high school or college team (the Host Team) invites a younger group of athletes (Participants) in grades 4th through 8th to their field, gym, court, pool, etc. and provides a sports clinic and shares their passion for helping others. The Host Team players develop leadership skills by planning the event, organizing the drills, preparing speeches, facilitating transportation, and providing necessary equipment for the younger players. The younger Participants (from under resourced areas) are given the opportunity to be coached by high performing players, experience a new environment, and gain near-peer role models at this event.

The GiveBack day brings people together in an uplifting and public way for the betterment of those who live in their community.

- The second component of the GiveBack is a two-week Philanthropy Project that is completed prior to the GiveBack day, by both the Host Team and the Participants. This portion is done by Zoom and all work is done online. SGN Staff members provide all athletes the education and tools to research local non-profits that serve causes aligned with their team's core values and that benefit youth and families. After completing the research, all of the players will vote by survey and rate the organizations on a list of criterion. On the day of the GiveBack, the non-profit organization that received the highest number of votes will be announced and a grant for \$1000 will be made to the winning organization. This practice of community-centric grantmaking uplifts and unites youth voices and stands as public example of connection and collaboration. Athletes will gain depth in understanding the complexities of social issues as they mentor youth through this process.
- SGN is proud to offer this comprehensive and innovative community service alternative to sports teams. Often teams complete canned good drives or pack backpacks, however, through these two parts of the GiveBack, SGN provides youth with a full-circle, meaningful opportunity to use their heads (research), hearts (passion for a cause) and hands (sports skills) to uplift their communities and drive volunteerism and civic engagement.
- Roughly 45 million youth participate in organized sports in the US annually and there can be great disparity in access to facilities and coaching. SGN leverages the infrastructure of organized youth sports as a distribution model for youth philanthropy because it brings diversity in race and socio-economic status and is inherently sustainable because there are always new players aging up.

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2. Funding request

- **Description of key initiatives** Sow Good Now is growing, engaging more youth, tracking volunteer hours, and expanding our donor base. This growth has led to the need for improved CRM management and operational support. We don't have a quote from a provider, but from what we have done so far this year, we have budgeted \$16,000 for this in 2023 and any grant from CCCF will go toward this work.
- **Specific needs & issues to be addressed** The value of our youth sports philanthropy programs is now taking hold and we need to obtain funds to keep up with our data sources, communications, volunteer hours and donor management.
- **Why it is important to fund this now** Without this funding, we will not be able to elevate new programs and youth will be left unserved.
- **How impact & results will be demonstrated.** Results and Impact will be demonstrated by the success of our GiveBack programs.

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.

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



WHAT IS CAPACITY BUILDING?

Capacity building helps bring a nonprofit to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity, in order to more effectively & efficiently fulfill its mission.

Capacity building may include (but is not limited to) projects which address:

- **MISSION, VISION & STRATEGY**
Organizational Assessment - Strategic Planning - Financial Planning
- **GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP**
Board Development - Executive Transition/Succession Planning - Leadership Development - Staff Training & Professional Development
- **PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS**
Coalition Building – Collaboration - Mergers & Acquisitions - Strategic Restructuring
- **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING**
Major Gift Donor Identification, Cultivation, Development & Stewardship - Development Campaigns (Annual, Capital, Planned Giving) - Earned Income Development - Social Enterprise Feasibility & Development - Marketing, Branding & Communications
- **TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS**
Business Continuity Planning - Financial Management - Human Resources - Volunteer Management - Industry Certification - Risk Management - Technology Improvements