

## 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](http://www.chescocf.org) to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
- **Email proposals to [grants@chescocf.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.chescocf.org)

Date

## Contact Information

Organization Name: YMCA of Greater Brandywine  
Address: 1 East Chestnut St., West Chester, PA 19380  
Phone: 610-643-9622  
Website: [www.ymcagbw.org](http://www.ymcagbw.org)  
Year Incorporated: 1892  
FEIN: 23-1365994

ED/CEO Name: Denise Day  
ED/CEO E-mail: [dday@ymcagbw.org](mailto:dday@ymcagbw.org)  
Board Chair Name: Donna Urian  
Board Chair Approval (check here):   
Primary Contact Name: Samantha Krejci  
Primary Contact E-mail: [skrejci@ymcagbw.org](mailto:skrejci@ymcagbw.org)

## Organization Information:

### Field/s of Interest:

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

### Mission:

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy mind, body and spirit for all. We accomplish this through our three pillars: Social Responsibility, Youth Development and Healthy Living.

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

YMCA GBW is an association of 8 Y Branches that serve communities across Chester County. Our Association office is located in downtown West Chester.

### Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

YGBW is the largest nonprofit organization serving Chester County, the largest provider of licensed childcare, and the 12<sup>th</sup> largest employer. This year we served over 60,000 families and individuals. YGBW continues to identify and serve the most urgent needs in our communities—from food distribution to affordable childcare to health and wellness for seniors. We are steadily rebuilding our numbers and welcome **all** in our communities to join us.

<b>Annual Budget</b> \$ <u>36,215,674</u>	<u>207</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>77</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>26</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>22</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>1138</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>1</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>11,485</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>	

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** Membership revenue; fundraising revenue; grants; childcare

**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:** \$ 7,500

**Proposal Summary:** YGBW seeks operating support that will enable us to continue providing fully and partially-subsidized health, wellness, education and youth development programming to children, youth and individuals with financial need.

## **II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

*Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.*

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

YMCA of Greater Brandywine (YGBW) is an association of 8 YMCAs serving communities across Chester County. We are a mission-driven, charitable service organization that has been strengthening the foundations of our communities since 1892. We do this through programs that promote youth development, healthy living, social responsibility and the acceptance of the equality of all persons. At the heart of our mission is a commitment to serve all members of our community, regardless of age, ability or income. We award financial assistance to ensure that no one is denied a chance to participate due to an inability to pay and we provide programs and services that are accessible to all.

YGBW's branches typically serve 60,000 individuals and families annually. We offer educational and wellness programs that help individuals of all ages decrease lifestyle-related diseases and improve their overall health. Our summer camps, after-school and early learning programs offer thousands of children experiences that enrich cognitive, social, physical and emotional growth. We offer quality programs that help young people cultivate the values, skills and relationships that lead to positive behavior, better health and educational achievement.

YGBW remains the largest provider of licensed, high quality, affordable childcare in Chester County. As we continue to rebuild since COVID, we look forward to welcoming everyone back to our Ys, re-energized in a sense of common purpose and community. We continue, post COVID, to host community blood drives, collect food for our Community Pantries, distribute hundreds of Thanksgiving meals to local families in need, and collect and distribute toys to children and their families each holiday season. This past summer we provided scholarships to families so their children could afford to attend summer camp where kids not only play, but learn. The Y is also a safe place for adolescents after school where they can play sports, get homework help, and learn about teamwork.

### **2. Funding request**

We respectfully invite members of our community to partner with us to sustain the wide variety of Y programs that serve the needs of children and families across Chester County—particularly those who are facing financial hardship and other challenges exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

For working families, access to safe, supervised, dependable out-of-school-time programming is vitally important. Yet, this can be difficult to find, particularly during early adolescence, a critical time in a young person's life when there is increased likelihood of unhealthy behaviors and experimentation. With support from our partners in the community, the Y strives to meet the needs of all children and youth by offering the following subsidized programs:

Afterschool Care and Summer Camp: When school is not in session, our Ys offer thousands of children across Chester County a safe, welcoming environment that supports positive behavior and a sense of community. Our trained staff provide homework assistance, organized sports, and enrichment activities including STEM and the arts. At summer camp, children benefit from positive, fun experiences that encourage learning, build confidence, and instill a lasting sense of community and well-being. Many children in our programs participate free-of-charge or at a reduced rate based on family income.

Seventh Grade Initiative: As kids face adolescence they are more likely to begin distancing themselves from formal organizations, friends, and family and to experiment with unhealthy behaviors. Unfortunately, COVID has added a new layer of complication during these formative years. To help support teens, YGBW offers a complimentary Y membership for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students, providing them with a safe space where they can make friends, discover their passions and cultivate a healthy lifestyle and good habits that will last them a lifetime. This year, more than 1100 7<sup>th</sup> Graders participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Initiative.

Safety Around Water (SAW): Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death in children under the age of 15 and for minority children the risk is even higher. As one of the nation's leading providers of group swim lessons, the Y is committed to addressing this problem and saving lives. YGBW's SAW program reaches hundreds of children each year, providing them with the skills they need to be safe in and around the water. This free program features introductory swim lessons, water safety skills and YMCA character values.

- Specific needs & issues to be addressed

Each of these programs provides critical services to families and children throughout Chester County. Whether it's licensed childcare, afterschool programming, summer camp, or fitness facilities, we provide a safe, supportive environment in which children and youth can learn and develop. This is central to our mission and we are committed to keeping our programs accessible, particularly to those with the greatest need and fewest resources. Our ability to underwrite the costs of these programs and ensure that we can continue to meet growing demand depends on the support we receive from foundations, businesses and individuals in our community.

- Why it is important to fund this now

Every year, thousands of kids across Chester County find safety, support and healthy choices at the YMCA of Greater Brandywine. For working families struggling to cover the cost of child care, the Y's high quality early childhood and school-aged care are an indispensable resource. This year, as more families struggle to make ends meet, and kids cope with isolation and uncertainty, our ability to subsidize these programs is even more critical. Whether through summer camp, afterschool programs, recreational sports and swim, or youth leadership and service groups—there is something that can engage and inspire children regardless of their abilities or financial resources.

- How impact & results will be demonstrated

We measure the impact of our programming in a variety of ways that go beyond basic enrollment figures. This year, we partnered with school districts to determine the impact of summer school programs on student learning and wellbeing. In our Safety Around Water training, children are evaluated by swim instructors to ensure that they have successfully mastered the skills and knowledge required to be safe in and around the water. In our 7th Grade Initiative we seek to increase the number of young people who sign up and participate each year across our association. This year, we are encouraging all 7<sup>th</sup> Graders enrolled in our program to perform 15 hours of community service.

For all of our subsidized programs, including summer camp and before and after-school care, our goal is to ensure that cost is never an obstacle to participation. Every year we seek to bridge the gap between the financial assistance awarded to families and the dollars raised.

### 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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### YMCA OF GREATER BRANDYWINE

#### Proposal to Chester County Community Foundation

**August 2021**

#### Proposal Attachments

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter
2. List of YGBW Board of Directors, with their affiliations
3. 2021 YGBW Annual Report

4. Audited financial statement

5. Itemized organizational operating budget, including actual results for 2021 & 2022 year-to-date

6. YGBW Strategic Plan

