

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

Date

Contact Information

Organization Name: Kennett Area Community Service ED/CEO Name: Leah Reynolds
Address: 136-138 W. Cedar Street, Kennett Sq., PA 19348 ED/CEO E-mail: leah@kacsimpact.org
Phone: 610-925-3556 Board Chair Name: Lynn Majarian
Website: <http://www.kacsimpact.org> Board Chair Approval (check here):
Year Incorporated: 1954 Primary Contact Name: Leah Reynolds
FEIN: 23-2215441 Primary Contact E-mail: leah@kacsimpact.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: KACS's mission is to strengthen the community in Southern Chester County through food, housing and crisis services.

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

KACS serves individuals living within the Kennett Consolidated, Unionville-Chadds Ford and Avon Grove School Districts. KACS' housing stability program also reaches into Oxford, PA.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Annual Budget \$ 3,144,065 16 FT/8 PT # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
89 % of budget for program expenses 12 # of Board Volunteers
6 % of budget for administrative expenses 80 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
5 % of budget for fundraising expenses 6,500 # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

United Way of Southern Chester County: \$131,380
Donna M. Kletjian Charitable Lead Trust, \$147,242
Chester County Community Foundation, Innovation and Resiliency Fund, \$100,000
Michael and Nancy Pia Foundation: \$50,000
United Way of Chester County: \$40,520

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: KACS is requesting general operating support to support its ongoing food cupboard and emergency assistance services, which work to prevent hunger and homelessness in southern Chester County. Support would also help us expand several programs intended to improve the lives of the most vulnerable in our community in the long term. Our Getting Ahead program helps motivated low-income individuals permanently break the cycle of poverty. We are starting a new program this year, Immigration Services, to help immigrants pay for the substantial fees and legal costs needed to pursue legal residency in the U.S., which can in turn open many more doors of opportunity for them.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

KACS is a nonprofit organization founded in 1954 that provides essential, life-sustaining services to thousands of vulnerable individuals each year. KACS' mission is to strengthen the community in Southern Chester County through food, housing, and crisis services. Our services focus on the critical needs in our community: food security, housing stability, crisis services, and long-term economic health. In the community we serve, KACS is the only food cupboard and the only resource for housing assistance. Our goal is to prevent hunger and homelessness in the short term, and support people with the life skills and goal-setting that will help them build stronger futures.

2. Funding request

- **Description of key initiatives**
- **Specific needs & issues to be addressed**
- **Why it is important to fund this now**
- **How impact & results will be demonstrated**

Kennett Square is a community with generally high income, although with a great deal of inequity. The median household income is \$78,796, compared to a median household income of \$63,463 in the state as a whole. The cost of living is even higher, with the median home or condo valued at \$279,669, compared to \$192,600 in the state as a whole. The population of Kennett Square is 42% Hispanic. Hispanic residents of Kennett Square are twice as likely as non-Hispanics to live in poverty; the overall poverty rate is 5.5%, but that rate is 11% for Hispanic residents. The rate is higher still – about 17% - for Black residents, who comprise another 5% of Kennett Square's population.

KACS' food cupboard serves more than 4,000 individuals each year, focusing on our community's poor and those in the ALICE category (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) who earn up to 350% of the Federal Poverty Level. During the pandemic, KACS saw the number of people coming to us for food double, illustrating how close to poverty many residents live and how vulnerable they are to financial disruption. Strong partnerships with the Chester County Food Bank, Philabundance, and local businesses and farms enable us to offer healthy food to families in need. In addition to our supermarket-style food cupboard, we maintain several increasingly popular food programs intended to benefit vulnerable seniors: food deliveries to Luther House (a low-income senior housing community in Avondale) and KACS on Wheels, a home delivery program to homebound seniors.

KACS offers several services intended to help families access affordable housing and prevent homelessness. Our staff provide case management, rental assistance, security deposit assistance, utility assistance, emergency hotel stays and crisis services. During the pandemic, KACS saw the number of people coming to us for assistance with housing needs increase by 50%, despite the federal moratorium on evictions. Because we serve a high number of Latino immigrants, many of our community members did not feel protected by this moratorium, nor did they have access to unemployment benefits, SNAP, stimulus payments, and other benefits that helped others to stay afloat through the pandemic. Despite the pandemic's decline, inflation and skyrocketing

housing costs have caused demand for our housing services to rise sharply. The federal eviction moratorium has ended and families who cannot afford housing are now at real risk of homelessness.

In recent months, we are seeing a genuine humanitarian crisis as immigrants from Central and South American countries are being bused and flown to this region. We are aware of at least five addresses in our service area that are landing pads for these immigrants, although they are unstably housed on floors and in hallways. Unlike many of the “work migrants” coming to the area in the past – single men seeking work on the area’s farms – many of these immigrants are women with children or unaccompanied minors. These individuals will need a great deal of support to gain economic stability. Our staff works intensively with every household to determine their needs and the best way to help them stay in stable housing that they will be able to sustain.

KACS also offers community members the opportunity to benefit from an intensive 16-week program called Getting Ahead, which is intended to equip individuals to permanently move out of poverty to stability and self-sufficiency. The Getting Ahead program ensures that the short-term support KACS offers with food security and housing is paired with a longer-term approach to changing lives and ending generational poverty.

KACS recently subsumed a small local nonprofit organization called Youth Community Forward (YCF), which served the area’s Latino immigrant community by providing funds for legal support and information about immigration law and rights. We are now working, guided by the founder of YCF, to build an Immigration Assistance Program (IAP) at KACS to build bridges with immigrants and help them work toward legal status in the U.S. Our goal is to help immigrants access and afford the legal assistance they need to apply for permanent residency or citizenship.

In southern Chester County, approximately 65% of the Latino population is foreign-born. Two-thirds of Latino youth in the area, but only one in six (16 percent) Latino adults, were born in the United States. For those not born in the United States, the path to citizenship is long, complicated, and difficult to maneuver. That is reflected in the fact that only 6% of foreign-born Latinos in southern Chester County have become naturalized citizens, according to the Census Bureau (“Housing and Transportation Options for Southern Chester County,” Chester County Planning Commission, 2014).

Since that report was published, the immigration landscape has become much more difficult for foreign-born residents, with green cards being more difficult to obtain and renew, long waiting lists for citizenship, and a hostile environment including deportations and family separations. Southern Chester County is seeing fewer immigrants from Mexico; however, we are seeing more immigrants from Guatemala, Venezuela, Colombia, and Honduras than before. The immigration law landscape is even more difficult for these individuals to navigate than for Mexican immigrants whose friends and neighbors may have some familiarity with the system.

Potential IAP clients will be referred to KACS from a range of partner agencies in the community (such as Maternal and Child Health Consortium, LCH Health and Community Services, and Crime Victims’ Center). KACS will review each case and make a decision about using IAP funds to support legal costs. We will work with a network of 4-6 local immigration, family law and workman’s compensation attorneys, with whom we have longtime relationships, who will offer pro bono or “low-bono” services whenever possible. Payments will be made to the attorney, who will use the funds to cover the costs of USCIS required documents, court costs, psychological testing if needed (with payments made to the agency conducting the testing), and potentially a portion of the attorney’s legal fees.

Assisting individuals in need with applying for the status for which they are eligible can make a huge difference in their lives, but it is financially out of reach for many. The I-90 application to replace a Permanent Resident Card is \$455 plus a \$85 fee for a biometric exam. An immigrant petition for an alien worker is \$900, and the fee to register for permanent residency (including biometric exam fee) is more than \$1,200. Costs like these are exorbitant for immigrant workers often earning the minimum wage. Giving people a one-time support to cover these costs can open many doors of opportunity to them.

By covering the legal fees of individuals seeking legal status in the U.S., we strengthen the community, decrease fear, and prevent family separations and deportations. Moreover, once individuals have legal status in the U.S., they have better access to self-sustaining employment and practical necessities (such as the ability to apply for a driver's license and therefore auto insurance, both of which make our community safer) that will make them more stable members of our region.

Our programs operate year-round, based on the needs of our community members. For the current year, we expect to meet the following goals for our key programs:

- KACS will serve 3,500 unduplicated individuals at our Food Cupboard.
- We expect to serve 1,700 unduplicated individuals in our Emergency Assistance program.
- Of households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, 100% of those we rehouse will maintain stable housing for three months, and 90% will maintain stable housing for six months.
- We will serve 30 individuals in the Getting Ahead program, 85% of whom will complete the 16-week program.
- Of the Getting Ahead participants who complete the program, at least 50% will report an increase in income and/or specific progress toward one of their stated personal goals by the end of program review
- The new Immigration Assistance Program will serve 15 immigrants in its first year of operation.

KACS uses the Caseworthy data system to track participant data across all of our programs. Our Director of Programs is responsible for assuring the quality of the data and for generating regular reports for both senior staff and Board. The Board of Directors' monthly report includes extensive data on our programs, including the number of unduplicated individuals receiving each of a wide range of services, the amount of funding expended on various programs (such as utility assistance and emergency hotel stays), and participant demographics. These figures are presented alongside the figures from the same month in the previous year for comparison and help us to make strategic shifts to better meet the needs of our community.

KACS is also planning a move in the near future. Our current location on Cedar Street in Kennett Square has been plagued by fire and floods, lacks dedicated parking, and is too small for our growing organization. A large parcel of land on Cypress Street has been donated to KACS and we are developing a new and much larger site there, which we expect to complete in late 2023. The new location will provide our staff and participants with more space for parking, meetings, and Getting Ahead workshops. The site will also become a distribution center for the Chester County Food Bank. We will be across the street from LCH Health and Community Services, one of our closest community partners. Once completed, we expect the new site to facilitate stronger community connections and stronger services for southern Chester County.

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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