

## 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.

### Nonprofits can submit proposals for 2 types of grants:

Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds (No Deadline)	Fund for Chester County Capacity Building Grants (Due 9/15)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Grants <b>focus on Chester County</b> causes &amp; issues, but are not limited to Chester County.</li> <li>◇ Charitable nonprofits working <b>in all fields of interest</b> are considered for grant awards.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- arts, culture &amp; heritage</li> <li>- community improvement</li> <li>- education</li> <li>- environment</li> <li>- health</li> <li>- human services</li> <li>- religion</li> </ul> </li> <li>◇ <b>General operating</b> grants are encouraged. Nonprofits should be specific about their mission, goals, &amp; measurable outcomes.</li> <li>◇ Proposals can be submitted <b>anytime all year</b>.</li> <li>◇ Grant decisions are made <b>intermittently</b> all year, as Fund Advisors desire.</li> <li>◇ Grant <b>awards</b> typically range from <b>\$500-\$7,500</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ For eligibility in this grant program, nonprofits must be <b>located in &amp; serve Chester County</b>.</li> <li>◇ Nonprofits <b>budgets</b> must be <b>\$500,000 or less</b>.</li> <li>◇ The goal of capacity building grantmaking is to <b>strengthen the effectiveness of NPO's serving the Chester County region</b>, in areas including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mission, Vision &amp; Strategy</li> <li>○ Governance &amp; Leadership</li> <li>○ Partnerships &amp; Collaborations</li> <li>○ Operations &amp; Technology</li> <li>○ Fundraising, Development &amp; Marketing</li> </ul> </li> <li>◇ Proposals must be submitted by <b>September 15</b> to be eligible for consideration.</li> <li>◇ Grant <b>awards</b> typically range from <b>\$500-\$5,000</b>, with monies distributed by <b>February</b>.</li> </ul>

- 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 CCF 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)-696-8211** 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: A Child's Light  
Address: 1251 Wisteria Dr. Malvern, PA 19355  
Phone: 610-405-2968  
Website: [www.childslight.com](http://www.childslight.com)  
Year Incorporated: 2016  
FEIN:81-1896477

ED/CEO Name: Leslie Holt  
ED/CEO E-mail: [Achildslight1@gmail.com](mailto:Achildslight1@gmail.com)  
Board Chair Name: Suzanne Silver  
Board Chair Approval (check here):   
Primary Contact Name: Leslie Holt  
Primary Contact E-mail:  
[Achildslight1@gmail.com](mailto:Achildslight1@gmail.com)

## Organization Information:

### Field/s of Interest:

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

**Mission: A Child's Light provides financial assistance for mental Health treatment to children 2-18 who have experienced severe trauma such as sexual or physical violence, and suicide attempt.**

**Geographic Area Served** *Chester County*

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:**  
**As of April 2023:**

**Annual Budget** \$ 188,000. 1 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
82 % of budget for program expenses      8 # of Board Volunteers  
15 % of budget for administrative expenses      5 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
3 % of budget for fundraising expenses      400 # of Volunteer Hours  
100 % total

### Top 3-5 funding sources:

**The Demos Family Foundation, Blue Beards for Charity, The United Way of Chester County, CCRES**

**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:** \$10,000.00 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Proposal Summary:**

**A Child's Light is requesting funding for the continued mission of funding mental health resources to children in Chester County who come from under resourced backgrounds who have experienced severe trauma and would never have access to trauma informed mental health support because of the fragility of county systems at this time.**

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

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

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

A Child's Light has been operational since 2019 but as of March 2023 has been officially recognized by the Internal Revenue Service for a name change. (Affirmation Letter, attached). A Child's Light offers Chester County families and children the financial assistance to access a private, trauma informed therapist in an expedited fashion at no cost. A Child's Light endeavors, and is normally successful, in having a client adhere to treatment for 9 -12 months which is a necessity considering the trauma and abuse that these children have endured. ACL (A Child's Light) collaborates with law enforcement, school districts throughout Chester County, Domestic Violence of Chester County, Community Volunteers in Medicine, La Comunidad Hispana, Family Service of Chester County, The Friends Association, Juvenile Probation, C.A.S.A., and Child Youth and Families, to name just a few organizations.

By negotiating a fee, based on sliding scale, with a therapist and funding up-front payment of 3 month/12 sessions, whichever is completed first, ACL is able to ensure that each client will have a strong, supported, professional, and high-quality mental wellness experience.

The success of our program is that it relies on dedicated therapists who recognize how essential early intervention can be with young trauma clients to positively impact and re-direct the trajectory of their lives. With extensive clinical experience, these therapists diagnose a client, typically within a two-week period. The intent is to expedite care and by-pass typical roadblocks to give quick access to psychological support. The mental health care resources we provide help to heal, build positive self-esteem, improve scholastics, cease self-harm and most importantly, stop the need for self-medications with drugs and alcohol.

ACL funds modalities of psychological treatment such as Equine Therapy, Play Therapy, Art Therapy and Parent/Child Interactive Therapy. We are also looking to add Music and Horticultural Therapy, and Martial Arts empowerment in the near future.

ACL has experienced tremendous growth within the past year due to the challenges in Chester County in being able to reach a growing number of children and young people experiencing mental health emergencies. Unfortunately, some agencies are reporting up to a two year wait list. ACL is sometimes the only safety net available to these children.

With a strong board that reflects the children and communities we serve we will continue to meet the demands of every demographic with no group being disenfranchised.

### **2. Funding request**

- **Description of key initiatives**

Since 2019 we have continued to increase the number of children, we serve by three times by funding over 107 children and only see that kind of growth expanding over 2023-24.

Because of a concerted effort in the Kennett Square area, we were able to reach Latino children who are in crisis and fund their early stages of healing. We are happy to report

that ACL is one of the first organizations called when agencies need a child seen immediately. We work with Mighty Writers, Young Moms, and Maternal Child Health Consortium. ACL is able to fund bilingual therapists to serve this clientele.

We have grown to over 75 therapists in which we can call upon to work with our clients and have now funded 107 children and adolescents and have answered over 300 emails and phone calls of people looking for mental health resources.

- **Specific needs & issues to be addressed**

The children who are referred to A Child's Light have experienced some of the very worst trauma that any human can endure. They have endured rape, sexual abuse, and physical violence along with neglect, malnutrition, and abandonment which is sometimes due to their parent's debilitating dependence on illegal substances and alcohol abuse.

ACL seeks to expedite support and overcome the range of challenges inherent in the local systems. Challenges include delays in access to county-provided services, limitations on available therapists and specialty needs of younger children combined with overall high costs.

With a network of providers, sister agencies, and individuals, ACL is part of a team seeking to support a child exposed to life-changing trauma. When a problem is first detected by a parent/guardian, guidance counselor, concerned family member or law enforcement, we can provide funding for early intervention and treatment.

With mental health support, guidance counselors reported improved scholastics and interpersonal relationships at school. Children and youth report fewer impulsive behaviors, lessened desire to self-harm and most importantly, self-medicate. Overall, parents and guardian report to ACL that their children are less depressed, angry, impulsive, and are able to self-regulate with the biggest concern being addressed is not taking drugs or drinking to escape psychological pain.

The communities where the clients reside also experience a positive impact. Therapy helps inform life skills such as anger management, impulse control, and emotional intelligence. Studies show that with treatment, children and youth remain in school, have less contact with law enforcement, make healthier life choices, are more able to visual future success and are motivated to attempt new challenges and not engage in unhealthy choices.

These positive outcomes promote a positive direction-away from incarceration, medical disability, inability to hold a job, hospitalization for substance abuse and homelessness. This intimately produces significant savings at local, state, and federal levels.

ACL is investing in our children and putting them and our community, on a path towards a healthier and more stable society.

- **Why it is important to fund this now**

Chester County, as every county across the United States, is experiencing unprecedented challenges in providing mental health services for every child. Post Covid-19 we have seen

these struggles magnified with a spike in emergency room visits for children experiencing a mental health crisis. There is a tremendous need in our society for early support and that need is expected to continue at an unprecedented level. Now is the time to act to get our children the treatment they need no matter where they come from or their ability to pay.

- **How impact & results will be demonstrated**  
The results have been, and will continue to be, in the reporting we receive back from family members, guardians, guidance counselors, probation officers and therapists. But most importantly, from the children themselves. In the clients self- reporting that they are less depressed, have stopped self- harming, are no longer engaging in altercations at home, and have discontinued using substances to relieve psychological pain. These feelings have been replaced with feeling hopeful for a future, attempting new experience's, are feeling more in control of their lives, are no longer feeling shame at what was done to them, and feeling empowered. 12 months of therapy can completely change the direction of a child's life with a relatively small investment.
  
- *For capacity building grant proposals:*
  - *How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?*
  - *How will this impact be measured?*
  - *Include a description of the expected activities; timeline & costs to implement the initiative. If external consulting services are required, include the anticipated costs & expertise of the consultants to be hired. Include external consultant proposals if applicable.*

### 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.  
To date we do not have a strategic plan to submit but will be developing a plan in our work with Emily McClure, Principal Consultant, Focus Shift.

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CHESTER COUNTY  
**community**  
FOUNDATION

*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