

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)

- ◇ 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.
 - arts, culture & heritage
 - community improvement
 - education
 - environment
 - health
 - human services
 - religion
- ◇ **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)-696-8211** 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 2/22/2023

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Pathway School
Address: 162 Egypt Rd. Jeffersonville, PA 19403
Phone: (610) 277-0660
Website: www.pathwayschool.org
Year Incorporated: 1961
FEIN: 23-2586474

ED/CEO Name: David Schultheis
ED/CEO E-mail: dschultheis@pathwayschool.org
Board Chair Name: Colin Hartnett
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Lauren Radcliff
Primary Contact E-mail: lradcliff@pathwayschool.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission:

The mission of The Pathway School is to build academic, social, and life skills in students with special needs to support their success and independence after Pathway.

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

Breakdown of Pathway's student body by county/city:

52% - Philadelphia 9% - Delaware County
19% - Montgomery County 8% - Berks County
10% - Chester County 2% - Bucks County

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Pathway supports 175 students, drawn from 7 counties and approximately 45 regional school districts across Southeastern Pennsylvania. Close to 70% are from families with low and moderate incomes, as evidenced by their eligibility for the national free and reduced-price lunch program and approximately 55% are students of color. Over 40% of Pathway's population is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, but all Pathway students experience varying degrees of learning, social, emotional, and behavioral challenges that require a specialized learning environment to prepare them for success in the classroom and the eventual workplace.

Annual Budget \$ 12,790,00 149 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
69 % of budget for program expenses 15 # of Board Volunteers
30 % of budget for administrative expenses 90 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
1 % of budget for fundraising expenses 1000 # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Wyncote Foundation, Mr., and Mrs. Louis B. Colameco, C&N Bank, Child Development Foundation, Dr. Edmond Watters III

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

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: *\$5,000*

Proposal Summary: We are seeking \$5,000 in general operating support specifically for our STEM-based curriculum and activities.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

The Pathway School is a nonprofit special education school licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Founded in 1961, Pathway serves students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Intellectual Disabilities, serious emotional disturbances, and other neurological impairments. Pathway's programs are licensed by the Pennsylvania State Board of Private Academic Schools and approved by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education to serve students ages 5–21.

Founded by Sheldon and Florence Rappaport in 1961, the vision for Pathway was grounded in the philosophy that learning should be adapted to meet students where they are, that education should combine academic instruction with clinical, emotional, and other supportive services, and empower students to acquire practical skills that help them thrive in their communities as children, and later as adults. At its founding, Pathway was among very few schools in the Greater Philadelphia area designed exclusively for learning disabled children by unifying the disciplines of psychology, psychiatry, medicine, and social work with education. Over the decades, Pathway has increased enrollment and staff who support the students, expanded programming beyond traditional special education, and has developed a vibrant learning environment on a 12-acre campus in Montgomery County, PA. Pathway has earned its reputation as a leader in innovative, high-quality programs and services, including on-campus clinical supporting services for students.

We focus on our students' ability to operate today, in their scholastic endeavors, and in the future as adults in a 21st-century world. Many of our students, approximately 70% each year, are from low to moderate-income households as evidenced by their eligibility for the Federal free and reduced-price lunch and breakfast program. We are finding that more and more of our students' families are experiencing financial hardships currently.

Pathway embraces innovation and focuses on the whole child for life success, helping each student identify their individual strengths and interests, maximize academic success, build confidence, and cultivate social and life skills needed to succeed in school and throughout their lives. Using an individualized approach, Pathway teaches students how to learn, offering academics, social skills training, and career exploration through a curriculum focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) that identifies and then leverages their individual strengths. Pathway's curriculum encourages creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Combining STEM, the arts, career education, and functional life skills, customized education plans are designed to meet individual needs and provide a path toward each student's success.

Students have the opportunity to explore a wide variety of STEM-related skills; experiment with different technologies and tools; engage in hands-on, experiential learning; learn what energizes them, excites their interests, and sparks curiosity. In a traditional school setting, students are constantly reminded of their deficits as they fail to align with traditional academic expectations. At Pathway, students identify what they like to do and want to improve, focusing on their abilities and strengths. They are then guided to use these insights to develop a plan for their post-secondary education and careers.

Through shared learning and hands-on, experiential engagement, students learn and practice the values of teamwork and collaboration. Students develop an appreciation for other perspectives and prepare to become competent communicators, proactive problem solvers, and engaged participants in their communities. For most, these attributes are transformational; often for the first time ever, students feel empowered and excited by their knowledge and inspired by their strengths.

Our goals each and every year include advancing the academic proficiency of our entire student body no matter what their disabilities and learning challenges may be. In addition, we are preparing them to advance to the next level of proficiency and the next grade level toward eventual graduation. Many students will spend much of their academic career here graduating between the ages of 18 and 21 years old. Likewise, when appropriate, we matriculate students back to their home districts if and when possible, which is also deemed a “success” by our measurements. For students in our Upper School program, ages 15-21, a goal is to engage them in career education and exploration, which includes curriculum based learning as well as real-life work experiences both on campus and with partner businesses in the surrounding communities. Our goals for our career education and transition services programs are to prepare our students for whatever may follow for them when they leave Pathway and move toward adulthood. That may be post-secondary school (2-year, 4-year college or a trade school); it may be moving right into the workforce; or it may involve other goals of our students.

2. Funding request

• Description of key initiatives

We are seeking \$5,000 in general operating support specifically for our STEM-based curriculum and activities. We are continually adding to and updating our STEM curriculum and tools. This year we are fielding our first-ever competitive robotics team (through FIRST Robotics) where our students will be competing against teams comprised of neuro-typical students. We are providing students with augmented learning opportunities through the use of virtual reality equipment and programming. We are teaching girls to code. We teach students how to use their imagination and creativity, combined with academic principles, to create functional items used in everyday life in our Innovation Center maker spaces (in 2019 we invested \$3.4M in captial funding to create an on-campus, state-of-the-art Innovation Center). We combine our STEM education with Career Exploration and Career Education for our Upper School (high school age) students.

• Specific needs & issues to be addressed

The need for our project is to continue to upgrade, update, and enhance our educational programming to benefit the above-stated goals. We rely on private support to help provide the unique, hands-on, and highly individualized academic programming above and beyond what public funding supports. Private support helps to ensure that our programming provides

• Why it is important to fund this now

All of our programming directly benefits the students who attend Pathway, their families, and ultimately the communities where they live. We believe that our leading-edge programming provides the greatest opportunities for our students to achieve their full potential and to achieve success both here, while in school, and later in life as adults. And that, in turn, helps them to become good “citizens” and productive members of the communities where they live.

- **How impact & results will be demonstrated**

We employ a range of testing assessments and measurements throughout the year to monitor each student's progress against the individual (IEP) goals as well as Pennsylvania State Standards.

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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*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