

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: August 2023

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
Year Incorporated: 1945
FEIN: 23-1365994

ED/CEO Name: Bertram L. Lawson II
ED/CEO E-mail: blawson@ymcagbw.org
Board Chair Name: Donna Urian
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Samantha Krejci
Primary Contact E-mail: 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):

The YMCA of Greater Brandywine is an association of eight YMCAs serving communities across Chester County, Pennsylvania, including Coatesville, Jennersville, Kennett, Octorara, Lionville, West Chester, and Berwyn.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

The YMCA of Greater Brandywine serves communities across Chester County through programs that promote youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility, typically serving 80,000 individuals and families annually.

Annual Budget \$ <u>41,030,097</u>	<u>463</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>80</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>119</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>19.7</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>3,096</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>0.3</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>51,622</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>		

Top 3-5 funding sources: Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund, Carol E. Ware, Pennsylvania Department of Education

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: The YMCA of Greater Brandywine provides critical services to individuals, 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. The YMCA requests operational funding to support signature initiatives with the greatest impact for Chester County residents.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

The YMCA of Greater Brandywine (YGBW) is an association of eight YMCAs serving communities across Chester County. We are a mission-driven, charitable service organization endeavoring to strengthen the foundations of our communities. 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 80,000 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.

Our Communities

The YMCA of Greater Brandywine serves all of Chester County, with eight branches serving communities with unique needs in Coatesville, Jennersville, Kennett, Octorara, Lionville, West Chester, and Berwyn and surrounding areas. YGBW strives to be a catalyst for improving the quality of life and well-being for all in our community. As of 2020, Chester County was home to 525,000 residents. The county's population is anticipated to grow to 662,000 by 2045, making it one of the fastest growing counties in Pennsylvania. The county also has the highest median income in the state. However, portions of the county served by YGBW also have significant poverty levels, including Coatesville (26.8%), West Chester borough (22.1%), and Oxford (18.4%). Chester County's population is aging, with residents 65 and older anticipated to nearly double between 2025 and 2045. Although a healthy population, childhood obesity is still a concern as it is across the United States. In 2015, 23% of Chester County children (ages 6-17) qualified as overweight or obese. YGBW is committed to meet the changing needs of the community through the development of offerings that align with the organization's mission and purpose, while maintaining a welcoming, celebratory, and diverse culture.

2. Funding request

The YMCA of Greater Brandywine is the largest nonprofit organization serving Chester County, with a wide range of programming to strengthen the foundations of our community. Outreach programs to the underserved members of the community is a priority for the organization, and YGBW strives to meet those needs through a series of signature programs:

- *Financial Assistance*

YGBW is committed to helping all members of our community to grow in mind, body, and spirit. We serve people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and incomes. Our fundraising efforts help us to provide financial assistance and income-based membership to ensure that YMCA memberships and/or programs are available for all individuals and families in our community. Income-based memberships are available to individuals and families who meet the eligibility requirements and

would like assistance in paying for their membership. Financial assistance is also available to individuals and families meeting specified household income guidelines to assist in paying for YMCA programs such as camp, childcare, before and after school care, swim lessons, sports leagues, and more. 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.

- *Childcare and Early Learning*

YGBW is the largest provider of licensed, high-quality, affordable childcare in the county. Childcare is a necessity, yet unfortunately, many Chester County parents are unable to work and raise a family in our community because they lack access to safe and affordable childcare. In 2023, 670 children are enrolled across all eight branches, ranging from infants to pre-K. Of those, 179 children are receiving some level of income-based financial assistance and nearly 150 families are waiting for care. The current economic climate has resulted in a staffing crisis nationwide. Additionally, with the impacts of COVID, increased attention on the behavioral health of our youngest population remains a focus of YGBW. The pandemic caused disruptions which impacted all children, but for those already struggling with behavioral or developmental challenges even prior, the stressors were particularly acute. We continue to develop new and creative ways to attract and maintain licensed, talented staff members.

- *Afterschool Care and Summer Camp*

For working families, access to safe, supervised, dependable out-of-school-time programming is vitally important. Our YMCAs offer hundreds 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.

- *7th 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 membership for all seventh-grade students in Chester County, 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.

- *Safety Around Water (SAW)*

Drowning statistics state that drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1 to 4 and the second leading cause for children 5 to 14 . A signature program of the YMCA is Safety Around Water. The Safety Around Water (SAW) program teaches children critical and potentially life-saving skills, opening a world of possibilities for them to safely satisfy their curiosity. During a SAW lesson, aquatics instructors teach children to safely enter and exit a body of water – and how to respond when in deep water. Swim lessons are a path for youth to build strong swimming skills and develop confidence around water. Our SAW program reaches hundreds of children each year, providing them with the skills they need to be safe in and around the water.

- *Adaptive Programming*

YGBW is dedicated to being a place of equal access for all. Everyone, regardless of ability, deserves to be part of a community that will help them thrive. YGBW offers many inclusive programs for

individuals with and without diverse abilities to participate in activities and classes together as well as a wide array of adaptive programs, designed for individuals with physical, developmental, and intellectual disabilities who choose to participate in activities alongside others with diverse abilities. Over the past few years, YGBW has continued to grow our catalogue of adaptive programs across all branches, and increase opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to meaningfully participate and be included in our organization.

- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

YGBW is an inclusive organization, welcoming all people regardless of ability, age, background, ethnicity/race, faith, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. The YMCA believes that in a diverse world we are stronger when we are inclusive, when our doors are open to all, and everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. YGBW has created a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Standing Committee Commission to help the organization maintain focus on the value all dimensions of diversity; understand the needs and wants of all segments of our community; and develop solutions that ensure the greatest possible inclusion. YGBW wishes to build bridges between diverse individuals, groups, and communities through staff training, event participation, and community connections. The YMCA of Greater Brandywine is the largest nonprofit organization serving Chester County, with a wide range of programming to strengthen the foundations of our community. Outreach programs to the underserved members of the community is a priority for the organization, and YGBW strives to meet those needs through a series of signature programs:

Specific Needs & Issues

YGBW is the largest nonprofit organization serving Chester County and the 12th largest employer. YGBW has a wide range of programming and fills a number of roles in our communities, but the most noteworthy role is that of the largest provider of licensed, high-quality, affordable childcare in the county. The role of YGBW is to provide critical services to individuals, families, and children throughout Chester County. Whether it's 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. Every year, thousands of kids across Chester County find safety, support, and healthy choices at YGBW branches.

Why Now?

The economic impacts of the pandemic and inflation continue to be a leading concern for many of our members and the greater Chester County community. In addition, the childcare crisis impacts families each day. YGBW relies on annual fundraising efforts to continue to offer financial assistance and subsidize critical programming. 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.

Impact & Results

YGBW measures the impact of our programming in a variety of ways that go beyond basic enrollment figures. We partner with school districts to determine the impact of programs on student learning and well-being. 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. 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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