

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. The Brandywine YMCA serves the City of Coatesville and its surrounding communities.

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. The Brandywine YMCA typically serves 10,000 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

100 % total

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. The Brandywine YMCA serves the City of Coatesville and its surrounding communities. The YMCA requests operational funding to support signature initiatives with the greatest impact on the residents of the Coatesville community.

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 Community

Located in Coatesville, the Brandywine branch has unique community needs. The City of Coatesville reports 26.8% of residents live below the poverty level, as compared to 6.6% in Chester County and 12% statewide. The majority of youth served by the Brandywine YMCA are within the Coatesville Area School District, which covers the City of Coatesville, the Boroughs of Modena and South Coatesville, and Caln, East Fallowfield, Sadsbury, Valley, West Brandywine, and West Caln Townships. The school district has 5,322 students; a minority enrollment of 60%; 56.6% of students are eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced-price meal program; and 7.4% of students are English language learners. The Coatesville Area Senior High School reports 82% of students considered economically disadvantaged and an 87% graduation rate. Brandywine YMCA continues 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

Brandywine YMCA strives to be a catalyst for improving the quality of life and well-being for all in our community. Outreach programs to the underserved members of the Coatesville community is a priority for the organization, and Brandywine YMCA strives to meet those needs through a series of signature programs:

- *Financial Assistance*

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*

Childcare is a necessity, yet unfortunately, many parents are unable to work and raise a family in our community because they lack access to safe and affordable childcare. 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. 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.

- *Transportation*

The Brandywine YMCA is located two miles from the border of the City of Coatesville. This distance presents a transportation barrier for many families within the city center who wish to participate in youth programming. To overcome this, the YMCA purchased a 12-passenger van in 2016 specifically for programming, where staff can pick up and drop off children, allowing many children to participate who would not otherwise have a way to the YMCA. In February 2022, the Brandywine YMCA van was in an accident and the van was totaled. With a gap between the insurance payout and the cost of a new van, Brandywine YMCA is pursuing the purchase of a new van as soon as possible in order to resume program accessibility for the underserved youth of Coatesville.

- *Safety Around Water (SAW) at Coatesville Area Senior High School*

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. Nationwide, 64 percent of African-American, 45 percent of Hispanic/Latino, and 40 percent of Caucasian children have few to no swimming skills. African-American children ages 5 to 19 drown in swimming pools at rates 5.5 times higher than Caucasian children in the same age range. Nearly 79 percent of children in households with incomes less than \$50,000 have few-to-no swimming skills. 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. As mentioned, with the Brandywine YMCA outside of the city center, transportation is a barrier. The Coatesville Area Senior High School has an indoor, regulation-size pool. Brandywine YMCA will conduct free SAW program swim lessons at the Coatesville Area Senior High School, in the hopes of attracting youth who may not have come to the YMCA. The opportunity to learn necessary, life-saving skills will be offered at a familiar and accessible location, at no cost to families, eliminating the most common barriers to participation.

- *Summer Camp*

For working families, access to safe, supervised, dependable out-of-school-time programming is vitally important. Summer Camp at Brandywine welcomes children kindergarten through sixth grade, with 110 children attending last year and upwards of 140 expected this year. The children participate in a variety of activities, including swimming, gaga pit (a type of dodgeball), pedal carts, slingshots, inflatables, and arts and crafts. Campers can enjoy nature trails, sports fields, and playgrounds as well. At summer camp, children will experience new activities, develop communication skills, and make new friends in a safe, secure environment. Summer camp has many benefits, and can serve to build on the academic growth of the school year by focusing on

the importance of play and exploration, making and spending time with friends, finding fun and sustainable ways to exercise, and creating a sense of community with their peers.

- *Homework Club*

Outreach programs to underserved students in the Coatesville Area School District are a priority for Brandywine YMCA. In September 2022, Brandywine YMCA started a pilot after school program called “Homework Club,” free of charge for Coatesville Area School District (CASD) students. The program entails qualified staff offering tutoring, homework assistance, and enrichment activities including STEAM and the arts. Some activities include painting, sculpting, drawing, crafts, and making art from natural objects. Investing in quality out-of-school time programs help reduce participation in risky behaviors and prepare young people for the world ahead by fine tuning their social skills, improving their school attendance, and developing career paths.

Specific Needs & Issues

Brandywine YMCA provides critical services to individuals, families, and children in the city of Coatesville and the surrounding area. 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.

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, including Coatesville and the surrounding area. YGBW and the Brandywine YMCA rely 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 Brandywine YMCA’s 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. 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 to ensure Brandywine YMCA can have the greatest impact on the Coatesville community.

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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so their legacies make a difference.*