

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 Jennersville YMCA serves Cochranville, Oxford, West Grove, and the 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 Jennersville YMCA typically serves 14,000 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
<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. The Jennersville YMCA serves Cochranville, Oxford, West Grove, and the surrounding communities. The YMCA requests operational funding to support signature initiatives with the greatest impact on the residents of the Jennersville 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

The Jennersville YMCA serves Cochranville, Oxford, West Grove, and the surrounding communities, covering much of southwestern Chester County. The 2020 census data available for Oxford Borough reports a median household income of \$58,125, significantly lower than the \$109,969 median income for Chester County and also below the Pennsylvania statewide median income of \$69,021. The number of persons below the poverty line was reported as 18.4%, another substantial difference from Chester County's report of 6.6% and Pennsylvania's 11.6%. Jennersville YMCA serves the Oxford Area, Octorara, and Avon Grove School Districts. The Oxford Area School District receives Title 1 funding, and reports 62.5% of students are eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced-price meal program. Octorara Area School District reports 42% of students eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced-price meal program. The statistics above indicate that many in our YMCA community are economically disadvantaged. Jennersville YMCA has a robust financial aid program, providing reduced or no cost memberships and program fees for those who qualify, ensuring that any person who wishes to participate at the YMCA has an avenue to do so.

Demographically, 2020 census data for Oxford Borough indicates a concentrated Hispanic and Latino population, reported at 45% compared to only 7.7% in Chester County. Households reporting a language other than English spoken at home was 34.3%, compared to 12% in Chester County overall. This is reflected in the school districts as well, with the Oxford Area School District and Avon Grove School District reporting 13% and 10.4% of students are learning English, respectively. Jennersville 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

The Jennersville 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 community is a priority for

the organization, and Jennersville 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.

- *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 second leading 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. The YMCA 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. The Jennersville YMCA is planning Adaptive Swim and Adaptive Progressive Fitness, designed specifically for children and adults with special needs and developmental challenges, as well as accessibility improvements to all playgrounds.

- *Performing Arts*

When people think the YMCA, they may think of exercise, swimming, or summer camp but Jennersville YMCA has a robust community theater program! The Jennersville YMCA Performing Arts Company dedicated to teaching and training young performers in the arts. We create a safe and inclusive space, free of judgment or discrimination, where our young actors can be a part of a community. With semi-annual productions for each the 6-12 and 9-18 age groups, the Jennersville YMCA is a place for all youth to explore their creativity.

- *Summer Camp*

For working families, access to safe, supervised, dependable out-of-school-time programming is vitally important. Summer Camp at Jennersville welcomes children kindergarten through sixth grade over 11 weeks. 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. Here at the YMCA, we believe summer camp can be a safe, enriching, and helpful experience, designed to meet foundational needs of a child's well-being. Camp allows children of all ages to develop a sense of belonging and achievement through learning new skills, improving social skills through making friends, and being supported by positive role models.

Specific Needs & Issues

The Jennersville YMCA provides critical services to individuals, families, and children in Cochranville, Oxford, West Grove, and the surrounding communities. 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 West Grove and the surrounding communities. YGBW and the Jennersville 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 Jennersville 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 Jennersville YMCA can have the greatest impact on Cochranville, Oxford, West Grove, and the surrounding 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.*