

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 Oscar Lasko YMCA serves West Chester borough as well as Cheyney, Westtown, Thornton, 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 Oscar Lasko YMCA typically serves 3,700 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 Oscar Lasko YMCA & Childcare Center serves West Chester borough as well as Cheyney, Westtown, Thornton, and the surrounding communities. The YMCA requests operational funding to support signature initiatives with the greatest impact on the residents of the Oscar Lasko YMCA 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 Oscar Lasko YMCA & Childcare Center is located within West Chester borough and primarily serves families living and working in a five to seven block radius of its location within the borough. West Chester has an above-average poverty level of 22.1%, and with high housing prices in the borough, lower income families have moved farther into the suburbs, making transportation a barrier. The Oscar Lasko YMCA is also unique in its offerings, focusing on childcare and youth programming. The Oscar Lasko YMCA & Childcare Center 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 Oscar Lasko YMCA & Childcare Center 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 Oscar Lasko 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.

- *Before and After School Care & Transportation*

For working families, access to safe, supervised, dependable out-of-school-time programming is vitally important. By participating, kids may reduce their exposure to risky behaviors. Parents can rely on the YMCA to keep their child safe while they work, reducing issues of childcare, impact on employment, and stress on working parents. Our YMCAs offer hundreds of children across Chester County a safe, welcoming environment that supports positive behavior and a sense of community.

At the Oscar Lasko YMCA, programs provide children in kindergarten through eighth grade a warm and supportive environment in which to grow. We meet the needs of each child with experiences that foster development and a sense of self-esteem. YMCA programs strive to develop the total child, with particular emphasis on educational, physical, emotional and social skills necessary for success in the coming school years. Offerings include homework assistance and enrichment activities including STEM, the arts, or mindfulness, as well as gym-based games.

Many children in our programs participate free-of-charge or at a reduced rate based on family income. The Oscar Lasko YMCA & Childcare Center after school program relies on YMCA transportation. Each day, YMCA staff provide transportation from the district's elementary schools to Oscar Lasko YMCA. While this helps to eliminate a transportation barrier for many children who wish to participate, the costs associated to the effort are high.

- *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. At Oscar Lasko YMCA, we continue to explore new ways to engage participants to encourage new interests in YMCA activities and programs.

Specific Needs & Issues

The Oscar Lasko YMCA & Childcare Center provides critical services to individuals, families, and children in West Chester borough as well as Cheyney, Westtown, Thornton, 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, West Chester borough. YGBW and the Oscar Lasko YMCA & Childcare Center 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 Oscar Lasko YMCA & Childcare Center'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 Oscar Lasko YMCA can have the greatest impact on West Chester borough and the surrounding communities.

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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