

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 Upper Main Line YMCA serves Devon, Malvern, Newtown Square, Wayne, 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 Upper Main Line YMCA typically serves 17,000 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 Upper Main Line YMCA serves Devon, Malvern, Newtown Square, Wayne, and the surrounding communities. The YMCA requests operational funding to support signature initiatives with the greatest impact on the residents of the Upper Main Line 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 Upper Main Line YMCA serves Berwyn, Devon, Malvern, Newtown Square and Wayne. The Upper Main Line YMCA has been a staple of the Main Line community for 60 years, impacting the lives of hundreds of thousands of children and families through dynamic and engaging programming centered around the pillars of youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The Upper Main Line YMCA has a sprawling 54-acre campus and offers both traditional YMCA programs as well as many unique programs and amenities. The Upper Main Line 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 Upper Main Line 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 Upper Main Line 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.

- *Environmental, Nature, & STEM Programming*

The Upper Main Line YMCA's most unique asset is the Environmental & STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education Center (EEC). The EEC campus consists of the 20-acre Cassatt Preserve, a Nature Center, Raptor Center (non-releasable birds of prey), Micro Farm (barnyard, farm plot, vegetable beds, hydroponic tower gardens, and community gardens) and classroom space. These resources have been widely used by Upper Main Line YMCA's summer camp, Y Earth Service Corps (YESC), and local school districts. In the past two years, the EEC has undertaken several coordinated projects designed to extend the reach of resources to serve children and youth from across Chester County. The expansion, currently underway, includes the addition of a new STEM/Zoo on Wheels program that will take our animal ambassadors and STEM curriculum to children across the region; an expansion of the Y's Earth Service Corps, an environmental service youth leadership program; and the construction of dedicated STEM and Ecology Labs to support more hands-on exploration and learning for campers, clubs, and visiting school groups.

- *Performing Arts*

When people think the YMCA, they may think of exercise, swimming, or summer camp but Upper Main Line YMCA has a robust performing arts program! The UMLY Performing Arts Company includes a community theater program and dance 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 staged productions each year in the fall and spring, and opportunities for children in Pre-K through 12th grade, the Upper Main Line YMCA is a place for all youth to explore their creativity.

- *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. For more than 40 years, Upper Main Line YMCA has continued to grow the catalogue of adaptive programs and increase opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to meaningfully participate and be included in our organization. A signature program is Open Doors, a weekly program for individuals living with diverse abilities. Participants have the opportunity to make new friends, try a variety of activities at the YMCA and around the community, and have fun in a low-pressure setting. For a large share of the participants, Open Doors is the highlight of their week!

Specific Needs & Issues

The Upper Main Line YMCA provides critical services to individuals, families, and children in Devon, Malvern, Newtown Square, Wayne, 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 Berwyn and the surrounding communities. YGBW and the Upper Main Line 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 Upper Main Line 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 Upper Main Line YMCA can have the greatest impact on Devon, Malvern, Newtown Square, Wayne, 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.
- Use this form @ www.chescof.org to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
 - **Email proposals to grants@chescof.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 grants@chescof.org with questions.

