

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

Contact Information

Organization Name: Bridge of Hope Chester County
Address: P.O. Box 304, Exton, PA 19341
Phone: 610-280-0280
Website: <https://chestercounty.bridgeofhopeinc.org/>
Year Incorporated: 1989
FEIN: 81-0555073

ED/CEO Name: Edith Yoder
ED/CEO E-mail: EdithY@bridgeofhopeinc.org
Board Chair Name: Bethany Shue Nussbaum
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Jessica Henry
Primary Contact E-mail: JessicaH@bridgeofhopeinc.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities Environment/Animal Welfare Education
 Health Human Services
 Religion

Mission: To engage Christian faith communities in ending family homelessness through neighboring relationships that demonstrate Christ's love.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): All of Chester County

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: Families with dependent children who are homeless or in the process of eviction. This past fiscal year we served 15 mothers with 34 children (49 total individuals). This current fiscal year, we anticipate serving 18 families (approximately 18 mothers/adults with 40+ children).

Annual Budget \$ 378,714 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff 2.5 _____
87 _____ % of budget for program expenses 12 _____ # of Board Volunteers
3 _____ % of budget for administrative expenses 79 _____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
10 _____ % of budget for fundraising expenses 3,430 (2022-23) _____ # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: WW Smith Charitable Trust, Beiler-Campbell Charities, Bentley Systems, Inc., Huston Foundation, JS Herr Foundation

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: \$4,960

Proposal Summary: We are requesting \$4,960 of funding for the migration to and first year of subscription costs for a cloud-based file storage system for Bridge of Hope Chester County, to replace our Microsoft small business server that will soon no longer be supported by Microsoft.



CHURCHES RESPOND.
HOMELESSNESS ENDS.
HOPE BEGINS.

Mailing Address: PO Box 304, Exton, PA 19341-0304

www.bridgeofhopeinc.org

Physical Address: Bridge of Hope National: 1 North Bacton Hill Road, Suite 100, Malvern, PA • 610-280-0280

Physical Address: Bridge of Hope Lancaster: 313 W. Liberty Street, Suite #114, Lancaster, PA • 717-207-8932

Physical Address: Bridge of Hope Chester County: 1 North Bacton Hill Road, Suite 100, Malvern, PA • 610-280-0280

Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

Bridge of Hope was founded in Chester County, and has been ending family homelessness for more than 30 years locally and nation-wide since 2002. The Bridge of Hope model is a unique solution to family homelessness that differs from the traditional shelter or transitional housing program. **We work collaboratively to help families move into safe and sustainable housing, and achieve long-term stability by providing comprehensive post-shelter and Whole Family Case Management services for 12-18 months.** Rental assistance is also provided on average for 6-8 months on a decreasing basis to coordinate with education or job training opportunities, which helps families begin working on financial goals. Families are accepted into the program regardless of race, ethnicity, faith or past experiences.

The Bridge of Hope model includes a distinctive component called Neighboring. Neighboring is provided for each family by a group of 6-10 trained volunteers from a local Christian church/group who build intentional relationships of support. Neighboring Volunteers walk alongside the family facing homelessness providing tangible and emotional support; such as emergency childcare, help to find housing and move in, networking through their social connections, a ride if transportation breaks down, encouragement and friendship. Data continues to show that support systems are critical for ending family homelessness in every community. (Bassuk, 2015, Services Matter: How housing and services can end family homelessness.)

The Bridge of Hope network includes 24 Bridge of Hope locations across the country. Bridge of Hope Chester County is an affiliate which operates under the umbrella of Bridge of Hope Inc. (i.e. Bridge of Hope National), along with Bridge of Hope Lancaster. All other affiliates operate independently. Bridge of Hope National's board is the governing board and Bridge of Hope Chester County also has a "community board" that oversees programming, serves as ambassadors and fundraisers in the community.

Family homelessness has been increasing due to the skyrocketing cost of housing combined with inflation and residual impacts from the pandemic. We experienced a 284% increase in calls for help this past year. Bridge of Hope Chester County ended homelessness for 15 families (50 parents and children) in FY 2022-23, which was 36% more than were served the previous year. Our goal for FY 2023-24 is to serve at least 18 families by March 31, 2024, the end of our fiscal year, and we are well on our way to meeting that goal to help meet the critical need in Chester County for services that end the cycle of homelessness.

Funding request

We are requesting a grant of \$4,960 to fund the purchase of a Microsoft cloud storage subscription. We are currently using a Microsoft small business server that will be outdated and no longer supported by Microsoft as of October 1, 2023. We can use our current server for a few more months but we must either purchase a new server or move to a cloud-based subscription. Based on recommendations from the industry and our IT provider, we would like to move to a server-less environment. Additionally, a cloud based storage option offers benefits for remote work, and it is less expensive than the traditional server.

Bridge of Hope Chester County employees work a hybrid schedule with some days in the office and some from home and conducting home-based visits with families in Bridge of Hope. This new system will relieve us of the cumbersome and unreliable use a virtual private network (VPN) to access files remotely.

We use an external IT contractor and they have recommended the Microsoft cloud storage as the best option for our organization's needs. When an on-premises server is at capacity, new equipment and resources must be added to expand its capacity. Preferably, cloud storage can be scaled based on certain metrics as needed using its built-in features. It is also more secure and reliable.

It is important to fund this project now because our current technology is outdated and we need to make the move to a new system in early 2024.

While not often talked about, IT infrastructure is critical to our work ending family homelessness. Staff must be able to save, locate and share important information, addresses, documents, and photos. Having access to files while they are on the road and with clients is crucial to productivity.

Impact will be measured through the following markers:

- Ability for staff to share documents and access resources among each other as a team
- Assurance that data will not be lost through fire, flood, etc. since data will now be in the cloud
- Assurance of a secure system for remote access when off site.

We received an estimate for the costs in November 2022 from our IT contractor (full detailed proposal provided in attachments):

Initial costs

Veeam Backup appliance	\$ 499
Labor	<u>\$5,687</u>
Total	\$6,186

Annual Recurring Charges \$8,694

Total for first year = \$ 14,880

To best utilize economies of scale, this system will be used by Bridge of Hope National and the two local affiliates in Lancaster and Chester County. **We respectfully request a grant of \$4,960 for funding one-third of the migration and cost of the first year subscription cost for a cloud based file storage system.**