

CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date: 8/30/23

Contact Information

Organization Name: Chester County Partnership to End Homelessness
Address: 601 Westtown Rd, West Chester, PA 19382
Phone: 610-344-4273
Website: <https://endhomelessnesschesco.org/>
Year Incorporated: 2013
FEIN: 23-6003040

ED/CEO Name: Robert Henry
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Board Chair Name: Jennifer Lopez
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Robert Henry
Primary Contact E-mail: RHenry@chesco.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: Our mission is to ensure that homelessness is a rare, brief, and one-time only experience for all residents of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

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

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: The Partnership works to serve people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity in Chester County. In fiscal year 2022 992 people utilized participating shelters in Chester County and the 2023 Point-in-Time count found 436 people to be experiencing homelessness on a single night.

Annual Budget \$230,049	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> 13 % of budget for program expenses	<input type="checkbox"/> 39	# of Board Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> 87 % of budget for administrative expenses	<input type="checkbox"/> 39	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> 0 % of budget for fundraising expenses	<input type="checkbox"/> 468	# of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>		

Top 3-5 funding sources: Chester County Housing Trust Program

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: Lived Experience Advisory Board

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$5,000

Proposal Summary: This proposal seeks to secure a capacity building grant to support the leadership development of members of the Chester County Partnership to End Homelessness' (CCPEH) Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) who have personally experienced homelessness within Chester County, Pennsylvania. The LEAB comprises individuals who have triumphed over homelessness and are now dedicated to using their unique insights to inform policies, programs, and services related to homelessness within the community.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

History: The Chester County Partnership to End Homelessness is committed to ending and preventing homelessness in Chester County. The Partnership is open to and inclusive of community-based organizations, nonprofits, local governments, faith communities, landlords, developers, foundations, volunteers, people with lived experience of homelessness, and concerned citizens. The Partnership is a Continuum of Care (CoC) program that provides guidance, advocacy, and community resources to support Chester County's homeless crisis response system—led by the Chester County Department of Community Development and powered by a network of nonprofit service providers.

Goals:

- Advance Racial Equity
- Advocate for Affordable Housing
- End Chronic Homelessness
- Create Non-Congregate Temporary Housing
- Build Capacity for Data-Driven Decisions
- Develop a More Diverse and Inclusive Partnership

Key Achievements: Over the past ten years homelessness has decreased by ~32% (641 in 2013 to 436 in 2023) according to annual Point-in-Time counts, in large part due to efforts spearheaded by the Partnership. CCPEH has recruited and developed a highly functioning Lived Experience Advisory Board with 9 current members. This group will be recognized at the annual PA Housing Alliance Homes Within Reach conference in December.

Distinctiveness: The Partnership is the only community-based collaborative—bringing together community-based agencies, local government, private and public organizations, nonprofits, philanthropic foundations, people with lived homelessness experience, faith communities, and the greater community—committed to ending and preventing homelessness in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

2. Funding request

- **Description of key initiatives:**

Leadership Training: Provide comprehensive leadership training to LEAB members, equipping them with essential skills in advocacy, communication, strategic planning, and collaboration. This training will empower them to become effective advocates for change within the community.

Personal Development: Offer workshops to foster personal growth, self-confidence, and resilience among LEAB members. By investing in their well-being, the board's overall impact will be enhanced.

Organizational Support: Strengthen the capacity of the LEAB as an organization by providing resources for administrative support, access to databases, and technology training to optimize their advocacy efforts.

- **Specific needs & issues to be addressed**

Leadership Development: Members of the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) will benefit from comprehensive leadership training to effectively advocate for change within the community. Building their capacity in advocacy, communication, strategic planning, and collaboration will empower them to drive impactful solutions.

Skill-Building: Workshops, conferences, and training sessions in various leadership skills like public speaking, project management, and data analysis will equip the LEAB members with practical tools to drive change effectively.

Personal Growth and Resilience: Individuals who have experienced homelessness often face unique emotional challenges. Workshops and mentorship programs focusing on personal development, self-confidence, and resilience are essential to support the well-being of LEAB members.

Emotional Well-being: Homelessness can have lasting emotional impacts. Personal growth seminars focused on stress management, self-care, and mindfulness will address the emotional well-being of LEAB members.

Organizational Capacity: The LEAB as an organization requires support to strengthen its capacity. Resources for administrative support, access to databases, and technology training will enable the board to operate efficiently and maximize their advocacy efforts.

Evaluation and Accountability: Regular evaluations are needed to assess the progress and impact of the capacity building grant. Key performance indicators will measure the number of education and skill building opportunities attended by members, increased leadership engagement, successful advocacy efforts, improved community relations, and the overall growth of the LEAB as a strong and influential entity.

- **Why it is important to fund this now**

The role played by Lived Experience Advisory Board members has proven to be a critical part in providing compassionate and effective services to people experiencing homelessness in our community. Unlike regular employees, the members of the board have limited opportunities to increase their knowledge, skill, and experience. We have now recognized that providing these opportunities is key to the continued growth and capabilities of the board.

- **How impact & results will be demonstrated**

Partnership staff will record the attendance of any/all Lived Experience Advisory Board members, along with a brief description of skills or knowledge gained from each development opportunity.

- **For capacity building grant proposals:**

- **How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?**

The CCPEH anticipates that increased development opportunities will lead to a stronger and more capable board. We would like for the board to expand its ability for advocacy, leadership, and technical skills, like grant writing or review. It is widely accepted that advocacy is more effective when done by people with firsthand experience. The CCPEH would also like to begin having board members provide training to local nonprofit organizations, working in the sector, and serving in leadership positions.

- **How will this impact be measured?**

The CCPEH will measure the number of advocacy engagements and number of people engaged by members of the board.

- **Why fund this now?**

By investing in the leadership development of members of the CCPEH's Lived Experience Advisory Board, this capacity building grant will empower individuals who have experienced homelessness to become effective advocates, fostering lasting positive change within Chester County. Through their collective efforts, the LEAB will play a pivotal role in shaping more inclusive, empathetic, and sustainable solutions to combat homelessness in the community.
- **Include a description of the expected activities; timeline & costs to implement the initiative.**

The CCPEH requests \$5,000 to help fund future trainings, conference registrations, development opportunities, and the associated costs for our LEAB. In the circumstance that scholarships and additional funding are available for people with lived experience, we will strive to utilize them as appropriate (ex. eligibility criteria, etc.). The below items are examples of costs that would be eligible, however amounts are just examples of costs. This grant would be used to support these activities up to but not exceeding \$5,000.

 - **Funding for Trainings:** Lived Experience Training Academy (LETA) by the National Coalition to End Homelessness - \$400/member
 - **Funding for Conferences:** Homes within Reach Conference by Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania - \$185 registration fee/member
 - *Additional costs incurred for travel expenses, food, and lodging will be reimbursed per federal guidelines.*
 - **Funding for Development:** Provide a recording of the "Community Conversation: Self-Care: A Lived Experience Perspective" by the National Health Care for the Homeless Council
 - **Stipends:** Provide stipends at \$35/hour for board members while attending approved trainings, conferences, and other development opportunities.