



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 9/13)

- ◇ 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 grants is to **strengthen the effectiveness of NPO's serving the region**, see page 4 for more details on the areas including:
 - Mission, Vision & Strategy
 - Governance & Leadership
 - Partnerships & Collaborations
 - Operations & Technology
 - Fundraising, Development & Marketing
- ◇ Proposals submitted between **July 1 - Sept. 13** are 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 04 Sept 2023

Contact Information

Organization Name: Emergent Abundance Farming Collective, ED Name: Julia Smagorinsky
fiscally sponsored by Open Collective ([terms of sponsorship](#))

Address: 309 Beech Lane,
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Phone: 860.639.4077

Website: emergentabundance.com,
opencollective.com/emergent-abundance

Year Incorporated: 2022

FEIN: 81-4004928

ED/CEO E-mail:

eafcollective@gmail.com

Board Chair Name: Heather Leach

Board Chair Approval (check here):x

Primary Contact Name: Julia
Smagorinsky

Primary Contact E-mail:

eafcollective@gmail.com

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities

Environment/Animal Welfare

Education

Health

Human Services

Religion

Mission: Our mission is to enhance the resilience of our community by creating abundant landscapes rich with food, natural resources and ecological habitat, and by sharing food, knowledge, skills and access to land and resources with the local community.

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

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: There are 35 active members participating in collective activities (i.e., land stewardship, growing food, educational activities). The food grown by the collective (fresh produce and herbs) is donated to Kennett Area Community Services (KACS), which serves 464 families monthly.

Annual Budget \$ 5000 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff 0

100 % of budget for program expenses 6 # of Board Volunteers

0 % of budget for administrative expenses 35 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

0 % of budget for fundraising expenses 1712 # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

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: \$ 5500

Proposal Summary: The proposal will fund the recording, editing and publishing of 20 short instructional videos (5-10 min) sharing farming and gardening skills and knowledge that are specific to the ways we work at EAFC.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

Emergent Abundance Farming Collective (EAFC) was born in 2020 out of the COVID-19 pandemic as a way for individual farmers and gardeners to grow food for community members in need, while also providing a safe, outdoor space for communal gatherings and skill shares. This has contributed greatly to the emotional health of the collective members as well as the food security of the area we serve. After starting the collective on private land, EAFC was granted permission in March 2021 to farm on Kennett township-owned land, Spar Hill Farm. Since 2020, we have consistently donated produce weekly to area services. We have held numerous skill shares on topics such as traditional herbal medicine, vinegar making, plant propagation, mushroom production and wild harvesting, as well as a five-month winter film and conversation series held at the Kennett Library. We run a seed library and seed sovereignty program in partnership with the library too.

Our goals are to establish a diverse integrated agroecological growing space including annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, and native flora and fauna. We aim to increase our active membership with an eye towards inclusiveness and accessibility. We want to expand learning opportunities through skill shares, hands-on learning and other community events.

We have established key partnerships with area organizations, including the Kennett Library, Kennett Area Community Services, Greenlight Nursery, Free Food for All, the Lenape Nation of PA, and the Kennett Township Historical Commission.

2. Funding request

• Description of key initiatives

Building our capacity to train new members and build internal leadership by recording, editing and publishing 20 short instructional videos (5-10 min) sharing farming and gardening skills and knowledge that are specific to the ways we work at EAFC.

• Specific needs & issues to be addressed

EAFC currently has a very high level of agricultural knowledge owned by a couple of its members who bring their agricultural education and experience to the group. While we are trying our best to share this knowledge, we don't have the capacity to educate each member one on one. We therefore seek to create media to aid us in the sharing of knowledge.

EAFC needs to grow in membership and leadership capacity. We need to empower all members with adequate knowledge and skills to become a thriving member able to make good decisions and to work at the farm in meaningful ways.

In addition to supporting our current members, the videos will introduce new members to the project and our methods of farming. These instructional videos will facilitate on-boarding of new members more efficiently, enabling new members to become more quickly engaged and effective.

• Why it is important to fund this now

E AFC has been in existence now for three growing seasons, contributing large quantities of high quality produce to KACS (Kennett Area Community Services), Free Food for All (fffa.de instagram) and other local organizations serving communities experiencing food instability. We have spent much of the first few years building the garden infrastructure, building a core membership, establishing decision making and organizational capacities, facilitating group meetings and above all growing, caring for, harvesting and distributing fresh, delicious, and highly nutritious produce.

- We are at a point in our organizational existence where we need to increase our capacity in multiple ways: empower our members to take on leadership roles, thereby enabling a true non-hierarchical leadership and growing our resilience and redundancy;
- increasing our capacity to on-board new members by establishing easy and high-quality ways to share information, knowledge and skills;
- increase our membership to have more help, to grow more food, to grow our vibrant community and to spread the knowledge and skills of permaculture farming with more people.

• How impact & results will be demonstrated

The results in the form of the instructional videos will be made publicly available online and shared on various social media platforms as well as our website. We will also share our video archive with the Kennett Library—an established partner for many of our efforts in community outreach and education.

The impact will be measurable at the end of 2025 when the videos have come to full use both for our existing members and our growing membership, as well as the broader public. The ways we will measure our success will be listed below. These will be published in our newsletter and social media sites, and can be reported directly to CCCF if requested.

• *For capacity building grant proposals:*

- *How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?*
 - Building capacity for rapid and smooth, empowering and respectful on-boarding of new members
 - Building capacity for shared leadership—supporting our non-hierarchical leadership
 - Increasing resilience and building redundancies by empowering members to step into each other's roles through the provision of access to adequate knowledge and skills
 - Increasing our capacity to be an effective producer of fresh produce to share with KACS and other local organizations serving people in need
 - Increasing our outreach and marketing by creating more online visibility by posting highly informative material on youtube, facebook, and Instagram
- *How will this impact be measured?*

- Number of people stepping into leadership roles
 - Increasing membership numbers
 - Increasing donations of produce to local food banks such as KACS
 - Increasing our visibility online to a broader audience
 - Increased charitable donations as a result of increased visibility
- *Include a description of the expected activities; timeline & costs to implement the initiative. If external consulting services are required, include the anticipated costs & expertise of the consultants to be hired. Include external consultant proposals if applicable.*

Over the course of the 2024 growing season (March - November) a series of 20 short (5-10 min each) instructional videos will be produced and published. The total cost of this project is budgeted at \$5,500. These funds will cover the production costs, and no purchase of equipment is necessary.

The expertise exists within our organization but is currently owned by individual members. This project will facilitate the sharing and perpetual access by all who wish to participate in the EAFC. No external consultants will be required.

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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*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their legacies make a difference.*



WHAT IS CAPACITY BUILDING?

Capacity building helps bring a nonprofit to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity, in order to more effectively & efficiently fulfill its mission.

Capacity building may include (but is not limited to) projects which address:

- **MISSION, VISION & STRATEGY**

Organizational Assessment - Strategic Planning - Financial Planning

- **GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP**

Board Development - Executive Transition/Succession Planning - Leadership Development - Staff Training & Professional Development

- **PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS**

Coalition Building – Collaboration - Mergers & Acquisitions - Strategic Restructuring

- **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING**

Major Gift Donor Identification, Cultivation, Development & Stewardship - Development Campaigns (Annual, Capital, Planned Giving) - Earned Income Development - Social Enterprise Feasibility & Development - Marketing, Branding & Communications

- **TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS**

Business Continuity Planning - Financial Management - Human Resources - Volunteer Management - Industry Certification - Risk Management - Technology Improvements