

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 9/1/2023

Contact Information

Organization Name: **Great Valley Community Organization**
Address: **51 N. Bacton Hill Road Malvern, PA 19355**
Phone: **610-990-6168**
Website: **www.gvco.org**
Year Incorporated: **2001**
FEIN: **26-1139318**

ED/CEO Name: **Keith Walsh**
ED/CEO E-mail: **execdirector@gvco.org**
Board Chair Name: **Tom Curran**
Board Chair Approval (check here)
Primary Contact Name: **Joan Giombetti**
Primary Contact Email:
joan.giombetti@gvco.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities

Environment/Animal Welfare

Education

Health

Human Services

Religion

Mission: The Great Valley Community Organization helps build a strong, vibrant and connected community by providing facilities, activities and programs enriching the lives of all local residents.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): **The Great Valley Community Organization (GVCO) serves the communities of Malvern Borough, Charlestown, East Whiteland and Willistown Townships as well as the surrounding regions of West Chester and Phoenixville in their philanthropy based programs.**

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: **The Great Valley Community Organization (GVCO) serves a diverse demographic within the community, from young children entering kindergarten to Senior Older Adults. GVCO has designed programs that fit the needs of every age group. For young children, offerings are tailored to their developmental stages, providing them with an early foundation in community engagement. Youth and teenagers benefit from sports leagues, educational resources, internships, and leadership opportunities that empower them to be active, confident community members. Adults and older Seniors find their niche in various programs crafted for their continued engagement and well-being. Furthermore, GVCO champions inclusivity with its adaptive gym programs, ensuring that individuals with special needs have ample opportunities to participate and thrive.**

Since its inception, GVCO has forged connections with over 12,000 families, becoming a cornerstone of the community. This substantial outreach signifies GVCO's lasting dedication to the community and its effectiveness in championing unity, diversity, and inclusivity over two decades. Strengthened by collaborations with over 50 community partners, GVCO's impact is amplified, enriching, and positively influencing the lives of thousands in diverse ways.

Annual Budget \$ 426,500 _____ 1 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
51 % of budget for program expenses 6 # of Board Volunteers
32 % of budget for administrative expenses 300 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
17 % of budget for fundraising expenses 12,000 # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Individual Donations, Programming, Fundraising

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: \$ 5000.00 _____

Proposal Summary: The Great Valley Community Organization seeks a Capacity Building Grant to secure funding to upgrade technology in conjunction with the opening of GVCO's new community center. The technological enhancements will serve dual purposes: first, to bolster our existing internship program by providing advanced tools and software to optimize learning and productivity, and second, to streamline the check-in process at the center's entrance, enhancing security and reducing wait times for our community members. This capacity-building initiative is crucial for improving educational and operational efficiencies amplifying GVCO's community impact.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness The Great Valley Community Organization (GVCO) is a 501(c)(3) started in 2001 by a group of dedicated parents to create a girls' basketball league to boost self-esteem and champion positive coaching. In the 20+ years since its inception, GVCO has blossomed from its humble beginnings into a vibrant hub, uniting over 12,000 families across a spectrum of programs—from arts, education, adaptive gym programs, internships, senior activities to sports and volunteer leadership opportunities for teens. In collaboration with over 50 community partners, including renowned entities like Olweus, Brandywine Valley SPCA, Home of the Sparrow and Cradles to Crayons, GVCO emphasizes unity, diversity, and inclusivity, upholding its foundational values of community-centric organization and positive impact. As GVCO evolves, it remains committed to providing diverse year-round offerings, ensuring a safe, inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and part of a greater whole.

2. Funding request

- **Description of key initiatives**

- **Technological Upgrades for Internship Program**

Background:The GVCO Internship Program, established in 2011, has been a vital program for high school and college students interested in gaining first-hand knowledge of a nonprofit organization. Students gain real-world experience while acquiring new transferable skills for future endeavors. Above all, the program ensures that the interns learn and grow professionally while providing an avenue for young individuals to give back to the community.

- **Streamlined Check-in Process**

Background: After years of planning and anticipation, GVCO will open a new facility. This facility represents not just bricks and mortar, but a dream realized for expanding our community outreach, programming, and educational initiatives. With the larger space and increased traffic, we recognize the need for efficiency and safety; therefore, a streamlined check-in process will be implemented. This new system aims to enhance both the safety of our participants and the smooth running of our facility, allowing us to continue to make a meaningful impact in the community.

- **Specific Needs & Issues**

- **Outdated Technology:** The current technology for the internship program impedes productivity and impedes the student interns from having the optimal learning experience.

- **Efficiency and Security at Entrance Way:** Given the expanded space and anticipated influx of visitors, we acknowledge the paramount importance of efficiency and safety. In response, we'll introduce a more streamlined check-in mechanism. This revamped system is designed to fortify the security of our attendees and optimize the facility's operations, ensuring our sustained and profound contribution to the community.

- **Importance of Funding**

- The importance of funding this project coincides with the opening of the community center. Implementing the technological upgrades will allow us to hit the ground

running, maximizing our capacity to implement top-notch internship programming and provide a modern and efficient facility to the community.

- **Demonstration of impact & results:** The success of this technological upgrade will be gauged through both quantitative and qualitative evaluations:
 - **Internship Program:** The use of metrics such as increased project completions, tangible skills acquisition and enhanced intern satisfaction will be assessed.
 - **Check in Process:** Monitoring of reduced wait times, increased security incidents promptly addressed, and positive feedback from community members regarding their entry experience.

The Capacity Building Grant presents an incredible opportunity for the Great Valley Community Organization. As we anticipate the new community center opening, enhancing our technology will do wonders for learning and operations. This upgrade will empower our interns with modern tools, preparing them for all future endeavors. Simultaneously, an efficient check-in system will enhance security and convenience for our community members. These improvements aim to foster a closer-knit, well-informed, and safer community for everyone.

Timeline:

1. **Month 1-2:** Procure and install the required technology and software.
2. **Month 3:** Train staff and interns on the new systems. Launch an initial test phase for the check-in process.
3. **Month 4-6:** Fully integrate the technological advancements into the internship program and operationalize the streamlined check-in system. Initiate regular feedback collection.
4. **Month 7-8:** Review gathered data and feedback, making any necessary adjustments.
5. **Month 9-12:** Conduct a comprehensive impact assessment, comparing pre and post-initiative metrics to discern tangible improvements and plan for future enhancements.

At GVCO, it's clear: our community members are our heartbeat. They are the reason the Great Valley Community Organization shines so brightly. This Capacity Building Grant isn't just about new equipment or systems—it's about our unwavering commitment to enhance the experience for everyone who calls this community home. We strive to create spaces and opportunities that resonate with our members' needs and aspirations. Your support is a step towards improving the GVCO experience for all community members, and we're deeply grateful for this opportunity and the positive changes it can spark for the GVCO family.