

- 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:

### sd 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](http://www.chescocf.org) to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
- **Email proposals to [grants@chescocf.org](mailto: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)-696-8211** or [grants@chescocf.org](mailto: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.

Date 10/23/2023

Contact Information

Organization Name: Roughwood Center for Heritage Seedways ED Name: Karen Stark  
Address: 107 Old Lancaster Road, Devon, PA 19333 ED E-mail:kacryo@gmail.com  
Phone: 610.688.9185 Board Chair Name: Karen Stark  
Website: www.seedways.org Board Chair Approval (check here):

The Roughwood Center for Heritage Seedways | Heritage seeds store

Year Incorporated: 2021 Primary Contact Name: Cynthia Williams  
FEIN: 87-1666074 Primary Contact E-mail: chwshw@verizon.net

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: The Roughwood Center’s mission is to preserve, cultivate, disseminate, and document historically significant heirloom seeds and provide seed-to-table education to maintain cultural food heritage and improve food security in our community. Our vision is to enable community members to establish “Victory Gardens” as food buffers using heirloom seeds /plants that celebrate the diversity of American food cultures. Roughwood achieves this through responsible stewardship of the seed collection and providing public lectures, workshops and training programs, internships and education for sustainability, food tastings and culinary events, and seed sales.

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

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: Gardeners, homesteaders, farmers, and indigenous populations; the community wide reach is unknown.

Annual Budget:

\$11,811 0.12 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff Independent Contractor  
95 % of budget for program expenses 8 # of Board Volunteers  
5 % of budget for administrative expenses 33 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
0 % of budget for fundraising expenses 3287 # of Volunteer Hours  
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: 1. Public Donations, 2. Education Product Sales, 3. Events

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: \$ 8,608

Proposal Summary: Roughwood Center for Heritage Seedways is experiencing an increase in heirloom seed sales due to our community lectures. Our requested assistance is to secure funds to (1) improve rainwater collection for irrigation;(2) protect garden from natural predators (insects, vermin, birds); (3) obtain supplies for selling seeds.

## II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

*Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.*

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

**Roughwood Center for Heritage Seedways at the Lamb Tavern:** The historic house initially built as 'The Lamb Tavern' now serves as the headquarters for The Roughwood Center for Heritage Seedways. The Lamb Tavern, built in Devon, Chester County PA in 1805 was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. Tucked into this historic home is a hidden treasure – information about our region as valuable and informational as centuries-old paintings or well-preserved texts. The [Roughwood Seed Collection](#), the oldest private seed collection in Pennsylvania, is a botanical bounty with many seeds which were previously thought to have been extinct. Carefully tended to, this vast library of seeds creates a tangible bond between the present moment and those who inhabited these lands, stretching back to the **Lenape** Native Americans.

Our founder, Dr. William Weaver, said, "If we lose these seeds, we lose control of our own food supply, which was the situation for medieval serfs." Roughwood is "***Rooted in History, Feeding the Future.***"

#### **Roughwood Goals:**

- Conduct practical educational programs and hands-on workshops, including "Seed to Table" programs to reduce food insecurity and teach community members to create their own food buffer. Follow in the footsteps of Ralph Weaver, who started the Seed Collection to feed his family in the Great Depression.
- Preserve the knowledge gathered from Roughwood and mentor the next generation of gardeners, homesteaders, and farmers. Be 'Stewards' of Roughwood's rich knowledge.
- Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds in the face of climate change.
- Support local restaurants/businesses by increasing interest in regional cooking and introducing exciting new menus. Work with Chefs, Farmers and Gardeners to increase employment opportunities.
- Tell the stories of Native and African Americans who were involved at Roughwood.
- Support community gardens, seed saving projects, and seed banks, focusing on those seeds adapted to thrive in our ecosystem. Raise money from programs and seed sales to provide grants for seed savers, gardeners, farmers and Indigenous people to continuing the tradition of the PA Commonwealth being the breadbasket of the American colonies.
- Establish Roughwood Center as a community resource.

#### **Key Achievement and Distinctives:**

The Roughwood Seed Collection (with over 5,000 varieties of heirloom food plants) was begun informally in 1932 by our founder's grandfather H. Ralph Weaver (1896-1956). During the Great Depression, Ralph set out to feed his family from a one-acre plot in West Chester, Pennsylvania. He used his Lancaster County family connections to acquire heirloom seeds grown in the Dutch Country for many generations. His passion for rare old-time varieties snowballed so that by the 1940s he managed to create one of the finest kitchen gardens in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Among the frequent visitors to his garden was West Chester African American folk artist **Horace Pippin**. Pippin's friendship with William Weaver's grandfather began with a request to be stung by Weaver's bees to mitigate the pain of a World War 1 injury. Mr. Pippin, as he was known to Weaver's family, became a regular at the Weaver lunch table. Horace Pippin gave Ralph Weaver the Fish Pepper and other rare pepper seeds from the African American community as a thank you for his help; these seeds are now considered rare and culturally significant. The Smithsonian's African American Museum is planning to do a Horace Pippin Garden on the Mall and has asked Roughwood Center for Heritage Seedways to provide 'Pippin Pepper' seeds and invited Dr Weaver to help with this event.

As the **Cornplanter Senecas Native Americans** were displaced, beans and corns were handed down and are now in the Roughwood Seed Collection.

While the focus of the Roughwood Center for Heritage Seedways has been early American, reflecting the type of culinary material of interest to historic sites, the focus has expanded to nutritional and sustainability in this era of climate change, introducing foods prepared from heirloom plants.

“We need biodiversity not only in our environment but also in the foods we eat,” says Weaver.

“Heirloom seeds are nutritionally richer than commercial hybrids, even more so when raised organically,” he says.

Every once in a while, a family will send their seeds to Dr. Weaver — something special, historical and perfectly unique. The Roughwood Center for Heritage Seedways promises to maintain the genetic purity of seeds. **“We don’t find seeds,” says Weaver. “The seeds find us.”**

## 2. Funding request

- **Description of key initiatives:**

- a. Replace 122 raised bed boards; existing boards are 38 years old= \$2940
- b. Build enclosed netting (sides and top) around 2 beds to protect seedlings/plants against wildlife damage= 2 - 15’ L x 15’W x 7.5’H structures @\$1534 each= \$3068
- c. Rain barrels = 4 @ \$160 each = \$640
- d. Office Supplies (ink, paper, seed packets, bubble mailers & postage) = \$1380
- e. Seed Packet Bin for seed storage (36x18x75”) = \$580

- **Specific needs & issues to be addressed:** Protect the seeds/seedlings/plants from critters and birds. In 2023, the squirrels, birds and voles ate all the rare carrots, lettuce, spinach, and many of the bean plants and produce. The netting and raised bed boards are an extremely high priority to keep the wildlife out. The rain barrels will collect water rain which is better for plants than chlorinated city water. Covering office supplies and materials for selling seeds will allow us to expand our outreach and generate income.
- **Why it is important to fund this now:** Roughwood Center is expanding our community engagement. We need to: 1. have seed packets, seed bin, office supplies, mailing material and postage to meet the on-line orders for the peak seed sales season (December – March); 2. install the raised beds and netting for planting seedlings; 3. have the rain barrels ready to gather late winter and spring rain.
- **How impact & results will be demonstrated:** **Volume** of seeds collected summer/fall 2024 and available for sale; **Compare** losses of 2023 to production in 2024 based on installation of netting and raised bed; **Reduced** water bill; **Increased** net income in 2024.

### ***For capacity building grant proposals:***

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

### III. ATTACHMENTS

#### *E-mail or mail this support information*

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter



IRS 501 c 3 Approval letter.pdf

2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations (current)

First	Last	Office	Affiliation
Adam	Diltz		Chef and owner of 'Elwood 'restaurant, Philadelphia, PA
Patrick	Donmoyer		Director of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University, PA
Evan	Urbania	Treasurer	CEO of ChatterBlast Media, Board Member "Team Philadelphia", Board of Manager member of "Philadelphia Foundation", Commissioner of "Philadelphia Gas Commission"
Tod	Auman		Co-Owner of Dundore and Heister, Local Pastured and Organic Meats, Wyomissing, Berks County, PA
Tom	Spies		Chief Plant Officer at Cross County Nurseries, NJ
Karen	Stark	President, Board Chair	Growing Pennsylvania's Organic Farms and Slow Food Philly advocate, Geneva Green Market member and Farm legislation advocate
Nicolle	Thery-Williams	Secretary	Archivist, Volunteer at Wintherthur's Chandler sheep farm in Delaware
William	Woys Weaver		Author; Heirloom seed and plant specialist; Food and Culture expert. Self-Employed
Cynthia	Williams		Quality Assurance, SyMec LLC

3. Most recent annual report & financial statement, audited if available



Roughwood Heritage Seed Collection 2022



2022 Profit Loss

4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date: Roughwood Y-T-D input will be available Dec 2023. Roughwood budget was set up in Dec 2022 for 2023 and priorities changed during 2023, so some of the line items were not funded. Attached is the 2023 Budget



Roughwood 2023 Budget.xlsx

5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable) – NOT APPLICABLE
6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why; Draft Strategic Plan is in work; final plan will be reviewed/approved by February 2024.

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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 Improvement