



## CENTER FOR INTEGRATION AND MIGRANT SUPPORT

*Seamless Integration for Every Migrant*

### 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](http://www.chescocf.org)

**Date** April 15, 2024

#### Contact Information

Organization Name: Center for Integration and Migrant Support (CIMS)

ED/CEO Name: Kennedy Chesoli

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Phone: 215-758-6780

Board Chair Name: Akpoghenobo Omene

Website: [www.thecims.org](http://www.thecims.org)

Board Chair Approval (check here): Yes

Year Incorporated: 2022

FEIN: 92-0564333

Primary Contact Name: Kennedy Chesoli

Primary Contact E-mail: [executive@thecims.org](mailto:executive@thecims.org)

#### Organization Information:

**Field/s of Interest:** Human Services

**Mission:** Providing Immigrants with a Strong Foundation of Support, Nurturing Growth, and Integration in Their New Communities.

**Geographic Area Served** Chester County and Philadelphia-metro.

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:** Newly arrived immigrants and migrants. Current population of 84 families (since Fall 2022)

**Annual Budget** \$ 300,000

51 % of budget for program expenses

29.6 % of budget for administrative expenses

5 % of budget for fundraising expenses

100 % total

1 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

6 # of Board Volunteers

7 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

50 # of Volunteer Hours per week



**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:**    \$ 10,000\_\_\_\_\_



## II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

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

Our organization started during the COVID pandemic, when we came together to support migrants and encourage them to participate in the public health interventions, including accepting the vaccines, and following the protocols put in place by the government. We used different strategies to counter vaccine hesitancy, misinformation, and disinformation. But to migrants, this was much more than a public health crisis.

In our view, migrants fared far worse than most other groups in America on the socioeconomic front. The sudden suspension of the critical support network, loss of incomes, and inability to receive government support presented major challenges to migrant families and individuals. The outcome of these challenges was manifested in increased depression, suicide, and suicide ideation. We present an example that illustrates our work during this period.

#### **Supporting a single mother and son in Philadelphia**

Last summer, CIMS received a distress call from Philadelphia, concerning a single mother and her son who had recently arrived in the country from Kenya on a work visa. Despite their employer arranging accommodation, this vulnerable family lacked essential resources like food, bedding, and cooling appliances in their apartment. They also faced isolation due to a lack of transportation, limited contacts, and unfamiliarity with their new cultural and geographical surroundings.

In response, CIMS provided culturally appropriate support to the immigrant family. We supplied them with food, water, and a window-installed air conditioner unit. Additionally, we connected them with the local Kenyan community, invited them to Independence Day celebrations in Center City Philadelphia, and paired them with a host family for their first Thanksgiving in America. CIMS also ensured access to ethnic foods by introducing them to African food markets and assisted in acquiring winter clothing for their inaugural winter experience.

### 2. Funding request

- **Description of key initiatives**

CIMS confronts well known challenges that migrants often face, which include but not limited to language and cultural barriers, cultural shock and isolation, inadequate resources, technology, knowledge and information gap, access to housing, healthcare and other social services, training, and job opportunities. Designed to address these hurdles, our programs are built around three pillars.

- The empowerment of migrants and migrant families.



- Cultivating and sustaining resilient support networks, and
- Identifying and dismantling barriers that impede migrant dynamism.

The purpose of our interventions is twofold: to support migrants on their path of resettling, and/or integrating and deepening their roots into our communities.

Against this backdrop, we have developed programs of support that start with community welcome committees and span different areas of need, including training and job placement, mentorship and cultural exchange programs, language classes, and providing legal aid clinics. Integration efforts include exposing migrants to the American cultural artifacts and values, including sports, art, and culture.

With the support of our local partners, we seek to bring migrant families to sport arenas, museums, fairs, and other events. We have also been successful in promoting American values and spirit that inform holidays and special events.

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

Our immediate funding needs are (i) securing new office space (rent), and (ii) a budget for partnership development, networking, and marketing expenses – efforts that would be led by our fulltime Executive Director and volunteers.

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

Two changes have occurred at CIMS in 2024. First, the Board appointed a full-time Executive Director with the mandate to prioritize the visibility, growth, impact, and effectiveness of the organization. Second, we are also on the cusp of losing our temporary office because the building has been put up for sale. We need resources to secure a new location, and implement the vision and goals set by our Board in Chester County and beyond. Your generous resources would help expand our capacity in serving our community.

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

We are seeking funding of \$10,000 that would be used to catalyze our resource mobilization strategy. This year, we aim to raise \$300,000 that we would direct principally towards operations and program work. Your generous grant would go towards our networking, partnership development and fundraising efforts. These capacity-building efforts will help us grow and expand our resource base and support our work. Impact would be measured by additional resource we would mobilize from this grant, as well as the number of months in rental payment.

## **Timelines**



<b>Date</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Benefit</b>
June 1, 2024	3-month rent payment @1,800	\$5,400.00	Secure office for volunteer staff; storage of care packs; migrant support center with a toll-free number.
June 1, 2024	3-month partnership development, networking, and marketing expenses	\$4,600.00	Leveraging this funding to achieve a return of x5. Total new funding of \$23,000 by December 2024.
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>	

- **Strategic Plan**

CIMS does not have an approved strategic plan. However, management is currently preparing one and would be submitted to the board for approval in H2.

- **Attachments:**

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter - **Included**
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations - **Included**
3. Most recent annual report & financial statement, audited if available – **2023 IRS Returns included**
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date – **Proposed 2024 budget included**
5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable) – **Shown above**
6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why – **Addressed above.**