



PAY IT FORWARD FUND IN MEMORY OF RONN FLETCHER

I. PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

(One page only. This page will be shared with Grant Committee Members.)

Date: 5/30/24

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Oxford Area Neighborhood Services Center Contact Name: Aaron Karpas
 Address: 35 N. Third Street, Oxford, PA 19363 Contact Title: Executive Director
 Phone: 610-932-8557 Contact E-mail: akarpas@pxfordnsc.org
 Web Address: https://oxfordnsc.org Fax: 610-932-8270
 FEIN: 23-7231577

Has your nonprofit previously applied to the Community Foundation: Yes No

Field/s of Interest:

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

Organizational Information:

Geographic Area Served: Oxford, PA and surrounding communities.

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: OANSC serves households across greater Oxford who are food-insecure and/or housing-insecure. We served about 3,000 people in 2023.

Mission Statement: NSC empowers people experiencing a crisis or sudden hardship by providing direct assistance and/or connecting them to available resources.

Organization Description: OANSC provides healthy food and housing assistance to low-income households in greater Oxford to ensure that no one in our community faces homelessness or hunger.

Annual Budget \$621,151	<u>7</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>97</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>11</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>2</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>30</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>1</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>1,800</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
100 % total		

Top 3-5 funding sources: Herr's Foundation, United Way of Southern Chester County, Chester County Department of Community Development: \$116,547

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: Year 1 \$ 45,000 + Yr 2 \$ 5,000 = Total \$50,000 (Maximum \$50,000 Total)

Summary Description of **Paradigm-Shifting** Grant Purpose: OANSC is requesting support to renovate our Food Pantry to increase capacity to meet need and to shift to a modern shopping-style model.



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II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

*Please provide the following information clearly and concisely.
Proposals of 1 or 2 pages are strongly encouraged.*

1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

OANSC was founded in 1970. We are perhaps best known for our Food Pantry, the only permanent food resource in our service area. Our Food Pantry serves approximately 2,100 unduplicated individuals each year with healthy food offered once a month (a 7- to 10-day supply at each visit) and on a supplemental basis when needed. OANSC also offers free bagged lunches to school-age children over the summer and food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

OANSC's Direct Services include the case management we offer to our participants, information and referral, and assistance with essential needs such as rent payments, utilities, transportation, and healthcare costs (such as prescriptions). Frequently, the short-term help we are able to offer can prevent a family from becoming homeless, forestall the loss of heat or electricity, enable an individual to afford an essential medication, or ensure that our participants can continue to work and attend school during difficult times. Many of the families we serve have no savings, so an unexpected expense is devastating to household finances. OANSC's support at these times can prevent a temporary bad situation from devolving into economic disaster. In a typical year, we help approximately 300 households with rental assistance and 200 households with utility assistance. In all, these services impact more than 1,100 individuals each year.

OANSC has a long history of successful partnerships for the benefit of those we serve. Our Food Cupboard belongs to the Chester County Food Bank's network and receives some donated food from this partnership. Our longtime partnership with Operation Warm supplies warm winter coats and shoes for children in our community. We maintain several community partner offices at our Oxford location, including the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, Oxford SILO, and the Crime Victims' Center of Chester County. The co-location of these agencies facilitates the coordination of services our participants may need and make accessing these services much easier. Finally, strong relationships with community groups, churches, businesses and individuals help sustain our work with both financial contributions and in-kind donations of food and other essentials.

2. Paradigm Shifting Funding request:

- A. Specific Chester County needs and issues to be addressed
- B. Paradigm-shifting impact
- C. Overall strategies to implement the initiative
- D. Why it is important to fund this now

Oxford is among Chester County's most disadvantaged communities. The poverty rate in Oxford is 18.4%, far higher than in most of the County. Oxfordians, even those not in poverty, generally have low incomes: the median household income is \$58,125 and the per capita income is just \$27,275. Both of these compare unfavorably to incomes for the Philadelphia metropolitan area (which has a per

capita income of \$43,195 and a median household income of \$37,725) and to Pennsylvania as a whole (which has a per capita income of \$79,070 and a median household income of \$67,587). Nearly two-thirds of residents are renters (63%) as opposed to homeowners (37%). (All data in this paragraph is from CensusReporter.org.)

In the past year, OANSC served a record high number of people at our Food Pantry: 2,146. Of that number, 153 (7% of the total) were seniors age 60+, and 817 (39% of the total) were children. Of those participants who self-identified their ethnicity on our intake form, 82% identified as Hispanic, 9% as non-Hispanic White, and 9% as non-Hispanic Black. In the current economic environment of rising inflation and high food prices, need is higher than ever, and we expect a further increase in the coming year.

Oxford Area Neighborhood Services Center (OANSC) is requesting support for the expansion and conversion of our existing Food Pantry to both increase safe food storage to meet rising community need and to transform our food delivery system to a more neighbor-friendly model. The current layout of our Food Pantry does not allow for participants to shop freely for food. This necessitates significant volunteer time to assist participants with receiving what they need; at the same time, it is a less satisfactory experience for our participants. We have wanted for some time to expand and reconfigure our Food Pantry to allow for walk-through shopping, which we know will offer a more dignified experience for those we serve.

3. Timetable, with anticipated outcomes and their relevance to the nonprofit's mission

We have begun to solicit bids to conduct the necessary work and have developed a project budget, which outlines the costs of the Food Pantry transformation. The construction part of the project can be completed in one year, although we have reserved a portion of the requested grant for year two to purchase any equipment needed once the renovations are completed. The completion of this important project will help us move our Food Pantry to a more contemporary, dignified model to benefit those we serve, while also positioning us for the increased need we forecast in our future.

4. How impact and results will be demonstrated

For the 2024 calendar year, we plan to achieve the following objectives:

- Transition the Oxford Food Pantry to a shopping model, providing families with more choice and autonomy and fostering a setting of dignity and respect.
- Build greater capacity in the Food Pantry for our future, ensuring that as the area's population and need grow, OANSC will be well positioned to meet the need.
- Serve at least 2,200 unduplicated participants annually with regular supplies of healthy food.
- Increase food donations from the community, to support food supplies of at least 90,000 pounds for the year.

III. ATTACHMENTS

Please attach the following 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 and financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year and current fiscal year to date
5. Itemized project budget (if applying for project-specific grant)

Note: The Philanthropy Network's Grant Application may be submitted with CCCF Summary Sheet.

Please e-mail completed applications by May 15 midnight with e-mail heading **Re: Proposed Grant Requested from CCCF Pay It Forward Fund** to grants@chescocf.org

Stephenie Stevens, Grants Director & Outreach Officer
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(610) 696-8211

THANK YOU!