

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 9/11)

- ◇ 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. 11** 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) 696-8211** 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

Contact Information

Organization Name: Neema Project
Address: PO Box 3533
West Chester, PA 19381
Phone: 215 279 0181
Website: www.neemaproject.org
Year Incorporated: 2014
FEIN: 37-1751940

ED/CEO Name: Gaëlle Beltran-Grémaud
ED/CEO E-mail: gaelle@neemaproject.org
Board Chair Name: Brian McIntire
Board Chair Approval (check here): BM
Primary Contact Name: ED (see above)
Primary Contact E-mail:

Organization Information: Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: Neema exists to serve and equip vulnerable young women in Kitale, Kenya through skills training, counseling, and discipleship. We provide an environment where students experience healing that brings transformation to their hearts, families, and communities—for the glory of God.

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

Waitaluk village, near Kitale - Trans Nzoia County, Kenya

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: Young women (age 15-20; about 50% single mothers) who dropped out of school after Grade 8 because of lack of fees or because of teen pregnancy. Most come from families making less than \$2/day.

Annual Budget \$440,000 (2023 revenues excluding Capital Campaign)	22 Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff (2 US/20 Kenya)
84% of budget for program expenses	7 Board Volunteers
4% of budget for administrative expenses	21 of Active Non-Board Volunteers
12% % of budget for fundraising expenses	2800 of Volunteer Hours
100 % total	

Top 3-5 funding sources: 75% Individuals, 11% Grants, 10% Corporate Sponsorships

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: \$3,000

Proposal Summary: In 2023, Neema expanded its permanent campus to accommodate twice as many young women in need, welcoming 48 students and 20 children in January 2024. However, this growth has highlighted a critical need for 15 additional new sewing machines to ensure each student can fully participate in the dressmaking training program and build a path out of extreme poverty for herself and her family.

CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

Grant proposal summary

In 2023, Neema expanded its permanent campus to accommodate twice as many young women in need, welcoming 48 students and 20 children in January 2024. However, this growth has highlighted a critical need for 15 additional new sewing machines to ensure each student can fully participate in the dressmaking training program and build a path out of extreme poverty for herself and her family.

Nonprofit's History, Goals, Key Achievements & Distinctiveness

Founded in 2014, Neema emerged in response to the pressing need to restore hope and dignity to the lives of vulnerable young women in Kitale, Kenya, and the surrounding region. Extreme poverty drives many of these women into desperate situations, often marked by shame and indignity. Neema extends a lifeline to unwed mothers, orphans, and girls at risk of being sold into early marriage or forced into prostitution for survival.

Goals and Developmental Model

Neema operates on a robust developmental model of restoration, education, and transformation. Each year, approximately 45 young women, along with their children, find refuge at Neema, where they receive adequate food, shelter, and medical care for three years. Approximately 50% of the young women are also mothers and come to Neema with their infants. Neema also employs twenty local Kenyans, further contributing to the community's economic stability.

Skills Training and Education

Central to Neema's mission is equipping these young women with practical skills to ensure their long-term employability. Over a three-year program, students are trained to become skilled dressmakers, preparing for national certification exams along the way. The third year is dedicated to internships, either within Neema's teaching shop or through attachments to other businesses, ensuring hands-on experience in a real-world setting. Beyond vocational training, Neema's curriculum includes essential life skills education as well as permaculture farming for holistic success.

Holistic Support and Trauma Counseling

Recognizing the deep trauma many of these young women have endured due to abject poverty and abuse, Neema prioritizes trauma counseling—a unique offering in a school setting in our rural community. By offering both individual and group counseling sessions to students, alumni, and their guardians, Neema helps them cope with past trauma and equips them to face future life challenges.

Empowerment and Community Impact

Neema firmly believes that empowering a young woman has far-reaching effects on her community. By

becoming employable, these women break the cycle of extreme poverty, enabling them to provide for their families and create opportunities for their children to thrive. Moreover, by restoring their dignity, these women challenge and change oppressive systems of gender inequality. As their value and worth are recognized, the community begins to shift its perception, acknowledging women as vital contributors to society.

Measuring Success and Impact

Neema's impact extends beyond individual success stories. On average, for every woman who graduates from Neema, eight other individuals across four generations benefit. This multiplier effect highlights the transformative power of Neema's work, promoting sustainable change from the individual level to the broader community.

2. Funding request

Description of Key Initiatives

In 2023, we were fortunate to receive a loan to build Neema's new permanent campus, enabling us to welcome twice as many young women in need. In January 2023, we proudly welcomed 48 students and 20 children. However, with the increase in enrollment, there comes a pressing need for more sewing machines to ensure each student can fully engage in their training.

Neema is dedicated to providing comprehensive skills training in dressmaking, empowering young women to secure meaningful employment and achieve financial independence. Our professional teachers prepare the students for up to three national certifications, which significantly enhance their employability in sewing shops and other companies that recognize these credentials.

The curriculum at Neema is meticulously designed to blend theoretical knowledge with practical skills. In the classroom, students master the art of designing and sewing garments, under the guidance of experienced instructors. To create an optimal learning environment, it is crucial that each student has access to her own sewing machine. This hands-on experience is essential for developing the proficiency needed to succeed in their future careers.

Specific Needs and Issues to Be Addressed

To meet the growing demand and maintain the quality of our training program, we urgently need 15 new mechanical sewing machines for our classrooms. The current shortage of machines means that not every student can practice simultaneously, which hampers their learning process and diminishes their chances of earning the national certifications.

Importance of Funding This Now

The timing of securing these resources is critical. If we cannot provide each student with her own sewing machine, her learning opportunities and ability to obtain certifications are significantly reduced. This not

only affects her immediate training but also her long-term employment prospects and financial independence, which will impact her whole family.

Impact and Results

We will measure the success of this initiative by tracking the number of students who take and pass the various national certifications. By ensuring each student has access to a sewing machine, we are confident that we will see a marked improvement in their certification rates, ultimately leading to better employment outcomes and enhanced livelihoods for the young women at Neema.

Signature: *Brian McIntire*
Brian McIntire (Jul 11, 2024 15:49 EDT)

Email: brian@neemaproject.org

2024_ChesterCountyCommunityFoundation

Final Audit Report

2024-07-11

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