



I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date 7/2/2024

Contact Information

Organization Name: Mental Health Partnerships
Address: 833 Chestnut St Ste 1100, Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: (215) 751-1800
Website: www.mentalhealthpartnerships.org
Year Incorporated: 1951
FEIN: 23-1425035

CEO Name: Jeannine Lisitski
CEO E-mail: jlisitski@mhphope.org
Board Chair Name: Irene Hurford
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Blake Caple
Primary Contact E-mail: bcaple@mhphope.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission:

- Mental Health Partnerships collaboratively builds hope and promotes the well-being of people in recovery through innovative peer-centered advocacy, learning and services.
- COMPEER CHESTER COUNTY is an affiliate of Compeer International and a program of Mental Health Partnerships (MHP). They are funded by the Chester County Department of Mental Health/Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (MH/IDD) and private donations.
- Compeer Chester County connects adults in mental health recovery in friendships with caring, trained volunteers, thereby maximizing community participation and helping people recognize their full potential. Started in 1999, this is our 25th anniversary year!

Geographic Area Served: Chester County

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: In 2023 Compeer Chester County served approximately 52 participants and primarily works with adults living with a mental health diagnosis.

Annual Budget \$ <u>136,400</u>	<u>1.5</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>87</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>8</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>13</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>45</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>0</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>1671 reported</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>		

Top 3-5 funding sources: Currently, this program is nearly exclusively funded through Chester County.

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building ____ or **General Operating** ? ?

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$5,000

Proposal Summary:

Mental Health Partnerships (MHP), founded on the belief that individuals with mental health conditions can recover through community support, seeks funding to expand our Compeer Chester County program as we celebrate its 25th anniversary. Over the past seven decades, MHP has led transformative changes in mental health services, pioneering peer-to-peer support and community-based care. The Compeer program pairs community volunteers with adults facing mental health challenges, fostering supportive friendships that reduce loneliness, boost self-esteem, and improve overall well-being.

We request funding to address the heightened mental health needs post-pandemic, celebrate and expand the program’s impact, sustain volunteer training and support, and enhance community outreach. This support is crucial now to meet the increased demand for mental health services, ensure the quality and effectiveness of volunteer interactions, and build a stronger, more connected community. Your contribution will help individuals with mental health conditions recover and thrive through the power of supportive community relationships.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. **Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness**
2. **Funding request**
 - **Description of key initiatives**
 - **Specific needs & issues to be addressed**
 - **Why it is important to fund this now**
 - **How impact & results will be demonstrated**

Mental Health Partnerships (MHP) was founded on the fundamental belief that individuals with mental health conditions can and do recover because they possess the resilience to direct their own journeys through adversity. Our mission has always been to support this recovery process, understanding that while recovery takes many forms, it is most effective within an informed, caring community that includes family, friends, and peers.

Over the past seven decades, MHP has spearheaded transformative changes in mental health services, making them more responsive to the priorities set by those served. A notable achievement was our role in closing state mental hospitals and ensuring that over a hundred million dollars were redirected into community-based mental health services. This led to the creation of Community Behavioral Health (CBH), a city-run entity managing behavioral health services for approximately 450,000 Medicaid recipients in Philadelphia under Pennsylvania's HealthChoices program. Our advocacy was crucial in preventing the takeover of CBH by for-profit managed care organizations in the late 1990s, safeguarding community-focused care.

MHP was also a pioneer in Pennsylvania, introducing peer-to-peer mental health services through neighborhood drop-in centers. These centers have evolved into our recovery learning centers, built on the once-radical idea that individuals in recovery can significantly aid others on their paths to recovery through mutual support and shared experiences.

This peer and community-based recovery model is exemplified in our Compeer Chester County program. Celebrating its 25th year, Compeer pairs volunteers from the community, some of whom have lived experience with mental health challenges, with adults referred by professionals to form supportive friendships. These friendships help reduce loneliness, boost self-esteem, and enhance the well-being of those dealing with mental health challenges. Volunteers receive training, choose their friends based on shared interests, and enjoy a flexible schedule for their interactions. Activities include meeting for coffee, walking, attending community events, or simply chatting.

As we approach Compeer's 25th anniversary, MHP seeks funding to expand and enhance the program's activities. This funding is crucial now more than ever due to several pressing reasons:

1. **Increased Mental Health Needs Post-Pandemic:** The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated feelings of isolation and mental health challenges. There is a heightened need for supportive programs like Compeer to help individuals navigate these difficulties.
2. **Celebrating and Expanding Impact:** The 25th anniversary is not just a milestone; it is an opportunity to celebrate and build on Compeer's success. We aim to expand our activities and

outreach, providing more frequent and diverse social events and recruiting additional volunteers to meet growing demand.

3. **Sustaining Volunteer Support:** Comprehensive training and ongoing support for volunteers are essential to maintain the high quality of peer interactions. Funding will ensure that volunteers are well-prepared and supported in their roles.
4. **Community Engagement:** Increasing our outreach efforts will help us reach more individuals in need of friendship and support, fostering a stronger, more connected community.

In summary, funding for Compeer's 25th-anniversary initiatives is vital to address the increased mental health needs in our community, celebrate and expand our program's impact, sustain volunteer support, and enhance community engagement. By supporting MHP and Compeer Chester County, you are helping to build a community where individuals with mental health conditions can recover and thrive through the power of supportive, peer-driven relationships. Your contribution will make a significant difference in the lives of many, fostering resilience, connection, and well-being.

III. ATTACHMENTS

E-mail or mail this 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 & financial statement, audited if available~~
- 4. ~~Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date~~
- 6. ~~Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.~~

Please contact Grants Administrator Kevin Baffa at
(610) 696-8211 grants@chescocf.org with questions.



*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their legacies make a difference.*