

MARJORIE L. AND ARTHUR P. MILLER FUND
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FUND FOR OPEN SPACE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Across Chester County, local citizen groups are emerging as stewards of their local land resources while other organizations with an environmental focus are forming as issue groups, non-profit agencies, and municipal land trusts. Other non-profits serve as stewards for important parcels of land being used in creative ways for education and demonstration purposes. Each community has valuable resources that are worthy of being preserved—streams, wetlands, green space, areas important to wildlife, scenic vistas, and areas of historic or community significance.

The Chester County Community Foundation is now accepting applications for the Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller Fund. ***One challenge grant of up to \$2,500*** is available each year to support a non-profit organization which provides creative solutions to open space preservation and the wise use of environmental resources. The challenge portion of this grant can be met through such diverse means as new forms of in-kind donations and volunteer support and/or new grant dollars. The Miller grant can be used for the following:

- **The creation of a park, trail, or recreation area**
- **A public or school-based environmental education effort**
- **Research and publication about an important environmental issue**
- **Environmental enhancement and preservation of a significant site**
- **Volunteer and leadership development**
- **A demonstration project with wide-use application**

Successful projects will be those that:

- **Involve collaboration with environmental agencies & organizations**
- **Demonstrate high impact relative to the dollars expended**
- **Are of a lasting nature.**

Programs with a significant educational component are encouraged.

Proposals will be accepted until **Friday, September 13**. Upon review of the initial proposals, a site visit may be conducted of the finalists. The grant will be awarded in November.

Please use the attached Grant Proposal Format to apply for the grant. Please explain how you will meet the challenge component in your grant proposal narrative. Grant applications should be submitted no later than 5:00 P.M., **Friday, September 13** to: grants@chescofc.org. **Subject: Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller Fund Grant Application**

For more information, please contact Stephenie Stevens, Grants Director and Outreach Officer at the Chester County Community Foundation at 610-696-0501 or steph@chescofc.org Thank you!

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Summary Sheet

(One page only) Note: If Philanthropy Network Common Grant Application is used, this Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. Please visit our website at www.chescocf.org to obtain an electronic version of this application.

Date:

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Stroud Water Research Center
Address: 970 Spencer Road, Avondale, PA 19311

Contact Name: Jessica Provinski
Contact Title: Director of Development
Contact E-mail:

Phone: 610-910-0049

Fax:

Web Address: stroudcenter.org
1967

Year Incorporated: 1998; Founded

Have you previously received the Miller Grant Award: Yes No

If "Yes", please indicate date and amount of each grant, if any, received from the Foundation:

(1) Year: _____ Amt Rec'd: \$ _____ (2) Year: _____ Amt. Rec'd \$ _____
(3) Year: _____ Amt Rec'd: \$ _____ (4) Year: _____ Amt. Rec'd \$ _____

Organizational Information:

Geographic Area Served (***If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County municipalities served***): *Stroud Center's main headquarters is located on the banks of White Clay Creek in West Marlborough Township, Chester County PA. The Stroud Center has two other long-term research stations, one at the Stroud Preserve in East Bradford Township, Pennsylvania, and another at the Maritza Biological Station in Costa Rica. While our mission is global, our research, education, and active watershed restoration efforts directly affect watersheds throughout Chester County and the people that live in them.*

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: *More than 15 million people are impacted by the Stroud Center's work each year. The demographic is varied, as clean fresh water is essential to all. Each year, more than 10,000 Students of all ages (from K – grey) attend virtual and in-person trainings and events. The Watershed Restoration Group works with farmers and large landowners from the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay Watersheds to help them apply best management practices to their land. The Stroud Center's interdisciplinary science team studies streams and rivers to produce the trusted science needed for successful stream and river conservation.*

Mission Statement: *To advance the knowledge and stewardship of freshwater systems through global research, environmental education, and watershed restoration.*

Organization Description: *Stroud Water Research Center is a scientific research organization focused on freshwater systems. Through a collaborative team of scientists, educators, and restoration professionals, the Stroud Center produces the research needed to continue to improve the health of our watersheds.*

Annual Budget \$ <u>12,429,225</u>	<u>52</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>86</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>20</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>8</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>45</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>6</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>150</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<u>100</u> % total	

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Major funders of program specific grants: National Science Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Federation, The William Penn Foundation

Major unrestricted funders: Blue Yak Foundation, John Lazarich Foundation, Tupper Family Foundation, First Cornerstone Foundation

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$2,500 Description of Grant Purpose: *Using Research to Improve Restoration Impacts Aimed to Maximize Outcomes on Water Quality Improvement (Grant will be used for matching leverage for other pending grant requests).*

MARJORIE L. AND ARTHUR P. MILLER FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Grant Proposal Narrative

Please provide the following information clearly and concisely.

Proposals of 1 or 2 pages are strongly encouraged.

Stroud Water Research Center began in 1967 field station for the Academy of Natural Sciences and, in 1999, it became an independent, non-profit institution.

For more than 55 years, Stroud Water Research Center has been driven by the philosophy that understanding the science of fresh water is essential to the protection of this vital resource. The education team translates that science into hands-on learning for students of all ages. The watershed restoration group uses that science to inform farmers and other landowners about best management practices that can reduce their impacts on freshwater systems. There are no other non-advocacy, unbiased organizations focused solely on freshwater systems like the Stroud Center.

Key achievements from the past year include:

- Helped farmers on more than 3,000 acres of land to reduce pollution into their waterways.
- Stroud Center scientists authored more than 17 peer-reviewed scientific publications.
- Implemented more than 252 best management practices on lands throughout the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay watersheds.
- Visited 517 active research sites.
- Hosted more than 213 programs through the education department.

1. Funding request:

- i. Specific Chester County needs and issues addressed**
- ii. Organizational impact (for general operating proposals) or project impact (for project proposals)**
- iii. Overall strategies to implement the organization's mission (or project)**
- iv. Why it is important to fund this now**
- v. How do you intend to meet the challenge component of this grant?**

Using Research to Improve Restoration Impacts Aimed to Maximize Outcomes on Water Quality Improvement

We're respectfully requesting consideration from the Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller Fund for a grant of \$2,500 to help fund important research from the Stroud Center. This funding will help the Stroud Center to collect robust datasets aimed at improving techniques to restore our watersheds and improve water quality. Ultimately, these data will help to produce scientific manuscripts for publication and the refinement of restoration techniques to improve environmental outcomes and thus enhance the efficiency of public and private funding for this work. If funded, this challenge grant from Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller Fund will help provide match towards another grant we are seeking to fund this work.

This funding will provide the opportunity for the Stroud Center team to collect important data sets to help guide the conversation about the best way to manage landscapes and farms to improve water quality. The Stroud Center's multidisciplinary science team is uniquely poised to study the impacts of watershed restoration efforts on water quality, and this funding will help the research team to study the physical, chemical, and biological changes in a watershed after the implementation of best management practices that range from cover cropping to streamside forested buffers.

The Stroud Center's process of whole watershed restoration (including streamside forest buffers and a mix of other solutions) has been shown to produce stream ecosystems that improve water quality and create a better functioning stream ecosystem that can receive and process nutrients more effectively. However, more data are needed to leverage policy and practice changes with the regulators and funders of these activities. The primary drawback of the whole watershed approach is the time needed for these nature-based solutions to mature to the point where they deliver the expected benefits. The costs tend to be lower and these practices typically do not require significant earth moving and major reconstruction of the floodplain and stream channel. The proposal would help the Stroud Center to collect datasets across a wider landscape to better document the environmental and cost effectiveness of this approach.

This funding will help the Stroud Center collect data to better illustrate that a whole watershed approach is a smarter way to spend public and private dollars to improve water quality and to create healthy functioning river systems and watersheds.

Clean fresh water is our most valuable resource, and funding leveraged with our ongoing efforts to improve and increase our research capacity will help ensure robust datasets that will guide policy changes at local, national, and global scales.

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

The Stroud Center plans to collect data throughout the 2025 growing season during both normal weather and major storm events. This data will help to begin to tell the story of how best management practices can positively impact water quality. The Stroud Center is founded on learning how clean streams and rivers work in order to understand how to improve degraded freshwater systems. If funded, this research will play an important part in this conversation and produce scientific results to show how changes in land management can potentially improve water quality. We currently have \$25,000 in secured funding, with another \$77,500 pending (including this grant). Each dollar raised helps us to develop a deeper understanding into our restoration practices, and helps to further develop the important research needed to help guide the way funds are being used through restoration efforts.

4. How impact and results will be demonstrated

Research is data driven, and results will be quantified through further analysis. The end goal is that the Stroud Center will use this data to produce scientific publications that can help to guide the funding and implementation of best management practices. Additionally, the Stroud Center will host an outreach event to share findings through a free public lecture when the data have been analyzed. This would most likely happen after the end of a 12-month funding cycle, but at least 20 months post funding. The published results should help the Stroud Center scientists to communicate the most effective and efficient way to spend private and public funds on restoration aimed at improving water quality.

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 Common Grant Application may be submitted with CCCF Summary Sheet.

Please visit our website at www.chescocf.org to obtain an electronic version of this application. E-mail applications are strongly encouraged.

***Please send completed applications to:
grants@chescocf.org
(610) 696-8045
THANK YOU!***