

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 the application.***

Date 9/10/24

Contact Information

Organization Name: Chester County Partnership to End Homelessness
Address: 601 Westtown Rd, West Chester, PA 19382
Phone: 610-344-4273
Website: <https://endhomelessnesschesco.org/>
Year Incorporated: 2013
FEIN: 23-6003040

ED/CEO Name: Robert Henry
ED/CEO E-mail: RHenry@chesco.org
Board Chair Name: Leah Reynolds
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Robert Henry
Primary Contact E-mail: RHenry@chesco.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: Our mission is to ensure that homelessness is a rare, brief, and one-time only experience for all residents of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

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

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: Chester County

Annual Budget \$229,999.00	<u> 2 </u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u> 94 </u> % of budget for program expenses	<u> 36 </u> # of Board Volunteers
<u> 6 </u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u> 35 </u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u> 0 </u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u> 500 </u> # of Volunteer Hours
<u>100</u> % total	

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: Lived Experience Advisory Board

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

Proposal Summary: This proposal seeks to secure a capacity building grant to support the leadership development of members of the Chester County Partnership to End Homelessness' (CCPEH) Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) who have personally experienced homelessness within Chester County, Pennsylvania. The LEAB comprises individuals who have triumphed over homelessness and are now dedicated to using their unique insights to inform policies, programs, and services related to homelessness within the community.

II. CHESTER County Community Foundation Grant Proposal Narrative

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

- **History:** The Chester County Partnership to End Homelessness is dedicated to ending homelessness in Chester County. Open to nonprofits, local governments, faith communities, landlords, developers, and concerned citizens, the Partnership operates as a Continuum of Care (CoC) program. It offers guidance, advocacy, and resources to support the county's homeless crisis response system, led by the Department of Community Development and supported by nonprofit providers.
- **Current Goals:**
 - Advance Racial Equity
 - Advocate for Affordable Housing
 - End Chronic Homelessness
 - Create Non-Congregate Temporary Housing
 - Build Capacity for Data-Driven Decisions
 - Develop a More Diverse and Inclusive Partnership
- **Key Achievements:** Over the past 5 years homelessness has decreased by ~59% (517 in 2019 to 213 in 2024) according to annual Point-in-Time counts, in large part due to efforts spearheaded by the Partnership. Just last year, we successfully hosted over 20 public awareness events & workshops, facilitated a Poverty Simulation, and expanded collaborative efforts with individuals with lived homelessness experience. Members of our Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) have also been invited to present on their vital work at the 2023 Homes Within Reach conference, hosted annually by the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania.
- **Distinctiveness:** The Partnership is the only community-based collaborative—bringing together community-based agencies, local government, private and public organizations, nonprofits, philanthropic foundations, people with lived homelessness experience, faith communities, and the greater community—committed to ending and preventing homelessness in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Funding Request

- **Description of key initiatives:**
 - **Leadership Training:** Comprehensive leadership training to Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) members to become effective advocates for change within the community, equipping them with essential skills in advocacy, communication, strategic planning, and collaboration.
 - **Personal Development:** Workshops to boost personal growth, self-confidence, and resilience among LEAB members. By enhancing their advocacy skills alongside their emotional well-being, we ensure they are well-prepared and supported in their leadership roles.
 - **Organizational Support:** Providing resources for administrative support, access to databases, and technology training to optimize their advocacy efforts, the organizational capacity of the LEAB will also increase.
- **Specific needs & issues to be addressed**
 - **Leadership Development:** Members of the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) need comprehensive leadership training to effectively advocate for change within the community. Building their capacity in advocacy, communication, strategic planning, and collaboration will empower them to drive impactful solutions. For instance, LEAB members have provided invaluable feedback on operational plans, program exit surveys, and various policies, demonstrating their potential to influence key decisions when adequately supported. Members of our Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) have also been invited to present their important work at the 2023 Homes Within Reach conference, an annual event hosted by the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania.
 - **Skill-Building:** Workshops, conferences, and training sessions in leadership skills like public speaking, project management, and data analysis will equip the LEAB members with practical tools

to drive change effectively. Members have already shown leadership by engaging in the Continuum of Care (CoC) application process and participating in public advocacy events like the Homes Within Reach conference, legislative advocacy, and conditional use hearings.

- **Personal Growth and Resilience:** Individuals who have experienced homelessness often face unique emotional challenges. Workshops and mentorship programs focusing on personal development, self-confidence, and resilience are essential to support the well-being of LEAB members. Testimonials from members highlight how participation in LEAB has significantly boosted their self-confidence, enabling them to break the stigma surrounding homelessness and empowering them to offer meaningful contributions based on their lived experiences.
- **Emotional Well-being:** Homelessness can have lasting emotional impacts. Personal growth seminars focused on stress management, self-care, and mindfulness will address the emotional well-being of LEAB members. Members have expressed how involvement in the LEAB has enhanced their sense of self-worth and resilience, underscoring the need for continued emotional support.
- **Organizational Capacity:** The LEAB as an organization requires support to strengthen its capacity. Resources for administrative support, access to databases, and technology training will enable the board to operate efficiently and maximize their advocacy efforts. A key aspect of LEAB's success is its commitment to power-sharing, with people with lived experience making up approximately 10% of the voting members on the CoC Governance Board, and being compensated for their time and expertise.
- **Evaluation and Accountability:** Regular evaluations are needed to assess the progress and impact of the capacity-building grant. Key performance indicators will measure the number of education and skill-building opportunities attended by members, increased leadership engagement, successful advocacy efforts, improved community relations, and the overall growth of the LEAB as a strong and influential entity. LEAB members' involvement in shaping the operational plans and CoC application process will serve as a baseline for assessing future growth.
- **Why it is important to fund this now:** The role played by Lived Experience Advisory Board members has proven to be a critical part in providing compassionate and effective services to people experiencing homelessness in our community. Unlike employees at larger organizations, the members of the board have limited opportunities to increase their knowledge, skill, and experience - especially as they are a newer board within our CoC system. We recognize that providing these opportunities is key to the continued growth and capabilities of the board and our system at large.
- **How impact & results will be demonstrated:** Partnership staff will record the attendance of any/all Lived Experience Advisory Board members, along with a brief description of skills or knowledge gained from each development opportunity provided by board members.

For capacity building grant proposals:

- **How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?** The increased development opportunities will lead to a stronger and more capable board. We aim to expand the board's ability for advocacy, leadership, and technical skills, particularly as it's widely accepted that advocacy work is more effective when done by people with firsthand experience.
- **How will this impact be measured?** Impact will be assessed through pre- and post-training evaluations measuring board members' advocacy and leadership competencies. We measure our CoC's overall impact via our annual System Efficacy Report, which captures key measures that reflect the effectiveness of our homeless system such as number of experiencing homelessness annually, average length of time in shelter, number of folks experiencing first-time homelessness, etc.
- **Why fund this now?** Funding now will boost the leadership development of our Lived Experience Advisory Board, enabling members who have experienced homelessness to become powerful advocates. This will drive impactful, inclusive, and innovative solutions, ensuring that Chester County's approach to ending homelessness is both empathetic and sustainable. Investing at this moment will maximize their effectiveness and accelerate positive change in our community.

- Include a description of the expected activities; timeline & costs to implement the initiative.** We request \$5,000 to support the LEAB's capacity-building efforts, which include leadership training, development opportunities, and essential resources to enhance their impact. A table outlining specific examples of how the funds may be utilized accompanies this summary; we seek flexibility in fund allocation to adapt to emerging needs of our members:

Stipend, Training or Conference Name	Provider	Training Cost	Travel (plane tickets/ gas)	Hospitality (hotel/room and board)	Misc. (Food, etc.)	Stipend	Total estimate (per member)
Hourly stipend for LEAB meetings & activities	Chester County Partnership to End Homelessness (CCPEH)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$35 per hour	\$35 per hour
National Lived Experience Leadership Conference	National Coalition for the Homeless & Destination: Home	\$350	\$150	\$255	\$60	\$35 per hour	\$850
2024 National Conference on Ending Homelessness and Capitol Hill Day	National Alliance to End Homelessness (NEAH)	\$115	\$50	\$500	\$60	\$35 per hour	\$760
Self-Paced Virtual Courses via NEAH's Center for Learning	National Alliance to End Homelessness (NEAH)	\$20-\$40 per course	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$35 per hour	\$55-\$75 per course
Workshops for People living with Mental Health challenges	Voice & Vision, Inc. of Southeastern PA	TBD (need a consultation)	N/A	N/A	\$15 per member	\$35 per hour	\$150
Online Courses for Housing & Health Care Professionals	National Health Care for the Homeless Council	\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$35	\$35