

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: \$ 3,995.00 _____

Proposal Summary:

The Chester County Library Trust respectfully requests a grant of \$3,995 to fund the library's Candid database. Candid is a search engine specific to non-profit agencies, and dedicated to grant and foundation research. Over 300,000 charitable, individual, family and corporate foundations are profiled in the database. Non-profit organizations may quickly and effectively match their organizational mission with funders' strategic funding initiatives. Over 800 non-profits in Chester County may access this database free of charge. Library staff offer individual training sessions on the Candid database.



II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. **Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness**

The mission of the Chester County Library is to provide informational, educational, and cultural services to the residents of Chester County so they may be lifelong learners. Chester County Library ensures that every resident has access to exceptional opportunities to read, learn, create, connect and contribute to a better quality of life. Our strategic plan focuses on 5 Key Initiatives: access; capacity building; community engagement; knowledge and inspiration; and experience.

The Chester County Library Trust was established in 2009 to bridge the gap between traditional funding sources and community needs. The goal of the Trust is to develop financial resources to build collections, expand library programs and services, and to support projects that the library could not otherwise offer through the operating budget. The Trust, as a 501 (c)(3), is applying for this grant.

Since 2009, the Trust has funded collections and programs to underserved populations: Large type, foreign language, outreach materials for homebound patrons, audio-enabled books, free museum passes, and English literacy programs. Funding for the Candid database will enhance our capacity-building initiative to the non-profit communities and the patrons they serve.

2. **Funding request**

• **Description of key initiatives**

In alignment with the key initiatives of capacity building and community engagement, the Chester County Library Trust will fund the Candid database. The Candid network is a database dedicated to research on foundations and grants for non-profit organizations. Any individual may access this database at the Chester County Library, at no cost. The Candid database offers a foundation directory with over 300,000 grantmaker profiles, GuideStar, and non-profit trainings on a variety of fundraising topics.

• **Specific needs & issues to be addressed**

The non-profit community in Chester County is comprised of over 800 organizations. The Candid database provides a no-cost search engine that allows non-profit organizations access to donor-advised funds; over 300,000 foundations and grants; corporate funding, academic institutions; donation platforms; and corporate social

responsibility platforms. In short, Candid is a productivity tool that matches non-profits to prospective funders.

In partnership with the Chester County Community Foundation, United Way, and the Chamber of Commerce, the library hosts forums, Non-Profit training series, and Meet the Grantmaker panels. It became evident that the non-profit community would benefit from by having access to a free search engine, along with trainings, to uncover available financial resources through grants. The library will offer access to the Foundation Directory Online Professional (FDOP) database, which is produced by Candid. Our reference librarians offer one-on one FDOP training, along with group demonstrations by request.

- **Why it is important to fund this now**

There are a record number of non-profit organizations throughout Chester County, all competing for the same local resources. Many non-profits do not have sufficient development staff to meet the time demands required for researching and writing grants. Volunteers and board members, most without grant-writing experience, are often recruited to apply for grants.

The Candid database, learning seminars, and “Meet the Grantmaker” series is a documented success, measured by use and attendance. The Candid database and training will educate directors, volunteers, and development staff about available funding sources. The database matches specific non-profits with donor-specific initiatives. Annual Meet the Grantmaker seminars and Candid training seminars help to foster community among non-profit leaders, and serve as both a resource and sounding board for attendees. The database is a time-saving method to for productive fundraising, aligning grantees with like-minded funding sources.

The Free Library of Philadelphia is the next closest location offering this database.

- **How impact & results will be demonstrated**

The Chester County Library reference staff tracks the number of Candid training sessions; the number of seminars offered, and the number of attendees. We do not currently have a mechanism to track the number of grants applied for by Chester County non-profits; or the number of grants received as a result of using this database.

- *For capacity building grant proposals:*

- *How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?*

The Trust funds resources that traditional funding methods do not provide. A grant to the Chester County Library Trust will allow the Trust to fund the Candid database, and align with our mission of building collections, expanding library programs and services, and supporting projects that the library could not otherwise offer through the operating.

- *How will this impact be measured?*
The success of the Candid database is measured by the number of users; the number of training sessions- both individual and group; the number of seminars, and the number of attendees at these seminars and trainings.
- *Include a description of the expected activities; timeline & costs to implement the initiative. If external consulting services are required, include the anticipated costs & expertise of the consultants to be hired. Include external consultant proposals if applicable.*

Expected activities include group and individual training session on the Candid search engine. Social media posts promote the benefits of the Candid database. Programs offered: Meet the Grantmakers in person sessions (These sessions were at full capacity in 2023 and 2024.) Timeline is January-December, 2025. The cost of the Candid database and training is \$3,995.00.