

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.

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

- 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@chescofc.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.chescofc.org

Date

Contact Information

Organization Name: Main Line Deputy Dog
 Address: PO Box 210 Devon, PA 19333
 Phone: 734-476-5716
 Website: www.mldd.org
 Year Incorporated: 2012
 FEIN: 27--3560764

ED/CEO Name: Mark Stieber
 ED/CEO E-mail: mark@mldd.org
 Board Chair Name: Mark Stieber
 Board Chair Approval (check here): X
 Primary Contact Name: William Klein
 Primary Contact E-mail: will@mldd.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts, Culture & Humanities | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment/Animal Welfare |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religion | |

Mission: Main Line Deputy Dog’s mission is to empower people with disabilities to lead an independent life by teaching them to train their own service dog: their deputy dog.

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

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Annual Budget \$129,420	_____ 1 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
_____ 65 % of budget for program expenses	_____ 6 # of Board Volunteers
_____ 26 % of budget for administrative expenses	_____ 22 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
_____ 4 % of budget for fundraising expenses	_____ 1,820 # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

- General Contributions (\$ 95,067)

- 2. Class Fees (\$15,280)
- 3. Grants/Foundations (\$10,090)

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: \$4,650 _____

Proposal Summary:

Main Line Deputy Dog is requesting \$4,650 in funds to expand our partnership with our partners, What A Good Dog. What A Good Dog is a dog training company that hosts Main Line Deputy Dog’s service dog training classes in their expansive dog training facility. Main Line Deputy Dog hires expert dog trainers through What A Good Dog to guide our service dog training classes. These trainers provide decades of valuable experience in all aspects of dog breeding, training, and care.

The funds we are requesting will expand our partnership with What A Good Dog by allowing us to rent their facilities for another training class, with another dog trainer for that class. By expanding our partnership with What A Good Dog, we can provide service to our students on the waitlist and help them change their lives with their own service dogs.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

At Main Line Deputy Dog, our mission is to teach people with disabilities to train their own service dog—their Deputy Dog. Established as a 501(c)3 in 2012, our innovative program is revolutionizing how people with disabilities get service dogs. We challenge the conventional model of providing pre-trained service dogs, which come with astronomical price tags from about \$30,000 to \$50,000. Instead, we match our students with rescue dogs that expert trainers have screened. Our students also house their dogs while training them. Combined, these steps eliminate overhead expenses and produce service dogs for 25% of the typical cost, largely subsidized by us.

Our approach is built on empowering our students. Our students guide our expert dog trainers and behaviorists to craft personalized training programs that holistically address mental and physical health needs. We host weekly classes where students are matched with volunteers and expert dog trainers. Our trainers assist our students in training their dogs to do things like retrieve items, open/close doors, interrupt anxiety attacks, give comfort, and much more. About a third of our students are military veterans—some with physical disabilities, some with post-traumatic stress, and some with both.

At the end of their training, our students take the service dog certification test administered by Assistance Dogs International (ADI). ADI is the most rigorous, widely recognized regulatory organization for service dogs globally, and our student teams can typically pass their certification in two years. We have certified 50 teams in twelve years of operation, giving us an 80% graduation rate.

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**

- *For capacity building grant proposals:*
 - *How will this capacity-building initiative impact your nonprofit?*
 - *How will this impact be measured?*
 - *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.*

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, rates of disability in Chester County have risen by more than 10% in the last 10 years. Currently, MLDD has more than 15 people on our waitlist. There are military veterans with PTSD, people afflicted by Multiple Sclerosis whose health is deteriorating, and people with spinal injuries from car accidents, learning what they can and can't reach from their wheelchairs. We recently received a message on our Facebook account from a mom asking for help with

her 14-year-old daughter who is in a mental health institution for self-harm and has been recommended to acquire a service animal. The sky-rocketing demand for service dogs, coupled with the desperate plight of people with disabilities, creates clear evidence of the need for our program to expand its capacity to serve people with disabilities.

We currently run six classes, serving 36 students—the maximum our budget will permit—with a considerable number of students on our waitlist. To expand our operation and provide immediate aid to students on our waitlist, we are requesting \$4,650 to add an additional class to our roster. These funds will go to deepen our relationship with What A Good Dog, our community partner who specializes in dog training. We will use the funds to rent their facilities for the extra class time and to pay their expert dog trainers for their expertise.

We do not require external consulting. Our novel approach provides service dogs to people with disabilities for 25% of the average cost. The requested \$4,650 will cover the costs of the training center and trainers for our new class, one hour a week, for a year.

- Group classes (training costs) \$60/ hour: 40 total hours \$2,400
- Individual 1:1 class \$150/hour: 15 total hours \$2,250
- Combined cost: \$4,650

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
 5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable)
 6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.
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*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their legacies make a difference.*



WHAT IS CAPACITY BUILDING?

Capacity building helps bring a nonprofit to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity, in order to more effectively & efficiently fulfill its mission.

Capacity building may include (but is not limited to) projects which address:

- **MISSION, VISION & STRATEGY**
Organizational Assessment - Strategic Planning - Financial Planning
- **GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP**
Board Development - Executive Transition/Succession Planning - Leadership Development - Staff Training & Professional Development
- **PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS**
Coalition Building – Collaboration - Mergers & Acquisitions - Strategic Restructuring
- **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING**
Major Gift Donor Identification, Cultivation, Development & Stewardship - Development Campaigns (Annual, Capital, Planned Giving) - Earned Income Development - Social Enterprise Feasibility & Development - Marketing, Branding & Communications
- **TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS**
Business Continuity Planning - Financial Management - Human Resources - Volunteer Management - Industry Certification - Risk Management - Technology Improvements