

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.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$500-\$7,500**.

Fund for Chester County Capacity Building Grants (Due 9/11)

- ◇ 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
- ◇ Proposals submitted between **July 1 - Sept. 11** are eligible for consideration.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$500-\$5,000**, with monies distributed by **February**.

- 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@chescocf.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.chescocf.org

Date 9/17/24

Contact Information

Organization Name: Chester County Council,
Boy Scouts of America
Address: 1 Scouting Way Exton, PA 19341
Phone: 610-696-2900
Website: <https://www.cccbsa.org>
Year Incorporated: 1919
FEIN: 23-1365192

ED/CEO Name: Benjamin Wheeler
ED/CEO E-mail: Benjamin.wheeler@scouting.org
Board Chair Name: Steve Carroll
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Lara Faust
Primary Contact E-mail: lara.faust@scouting.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: It is our mission "To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling the values of the Scout Oath and Law."

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): The Chester County Council ("Council") provides Scouting service throughout Chester County, PA and northern Cecil County, MD.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: Currently, Council serves 3,000 youth through its five progressive programs with a continuum of opportunities for youth from kindergarten through age 20 including Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting, and Exploring.

Annual Budget \$ <u>2,717,773</u>	<u>11</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>60</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>28</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>20</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>1,400</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>20</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>26,000</u> # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Connelly Foundation, Crystal Trust, Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation, Justamere Foundation, The Lasko Family Foundation

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: \$ 5,000

Proposal Summary:

Chester County Council respectfully requests \$5,000 in support of its financial assistance program for underserved youth in Chester County. Grant funds will support registration fees, program handbooks, and up to half of summer camp tuition for youth ages 5-20 joining Scouting programs in underserved Chester County communities with a particular focus on southern Chester County and the Kennett Square region as well as Coatesville, Parkesburg, and Phoenixville. Within these Chester County communities, there is a need for affordable youth development programs outside of the traditional school classroom and to provide families with the tools and resources to access these programs.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

For more than 100 years, Scouting has helped build future leaders by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun and adventure in the outdoors. The Chester County Council ("Council") is dedicated to developing leaders of character by preparing young men and women for life. It is our mission "To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling the values of the Scout Oath and Law." Our vision is that every eligible youth becomes a responsible, participating citizen and leader guided by these values. The timeless ideals of the Scout Law, such as being trustworthy, helpful, kind, and brave, make up the foundation young people need to address and overcome challenges in their lives and the issues facing their generation. The emphasis on ethics and moral values prepares youth to be leaders, to accept responsibility, and to care about principles and causes beyond their self-interest.

Chester County Council serves 3,000 youth annually through Scouting's various age-appropriate programs for boys and girls from Kindergarten to age 20. The Council is comprised of 3 Districts; each served by a full-time Scouting professional. Council staff provide training, program administration, a full-service Scout Shop and a myriad of other support services to assist the more than 1,400 adult volunteer leaders delivering Scouting programs and activities throughout the Chester County Council. The Council offers several progressive programs with a continuum of activities: Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, along with three co-ed programs for youth aged 14-20: Venturing, Exploring and Sea Scouts. Each program is chartered by either a religious organization, school, or community-based organization – Council currently holds 119 community partnerships to administer our Scouting programs.

Some significant accomplishments made by our youth during the past year include the coveted rank of "Eagle," which was earned by 155 Chester County Scouts who gave thousands of hours in community service to achieve this rank. Our Advancement Committee reports over 26,000 community service hours were generated by Eagle Scout projects and nearly 27,000 pounds of food collected for the needy via the "Scouting for Food" good turn campaign last year. In addition, our youth members earn over 8,000 rank advancements and merit badges annually and hold more than 1,500 leadership positions throughout the year.

Additionally, Council has excellent camping facilities which engage thousands of youth and adults each year through programs that emphasize education and learning via merit badge requirements and achievement, physical activity, team building, leadership training, and recreation. Council's two camps on the Horseshoe Scout Reservation - Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware, the 3rd - have been nationally recognized for leadership training and program excellence. During the summer of 2024, Camp Horseshoe and Camp Ware were host to over 2,840 Scouts and adult volunteers to the properties. Scouts BSA members, ages 11-18, choose from seven 6-day sessions at Camp Horseshoe and Camp Ware hosts four 3,4.or 5-day sessions for Cub Scouts, ages 5-11. Scout units from neighboring states of Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey participated in camp programs in addition to local Chester County and Pennsylvania units. Other camp programs include a weekend session at Camp Ware for special needs adults and youth, the annual Spook-o-rees for Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA held in October and November respectively at Camp Ware and Camp Horseshoe, the Klondike Derby hosted annually at Camp Horseshoe for Scouts BSA members, Scout Saturdays for Cub Scouts throughout the year at Camp Ware, and Day Camp offered at PARC, the Oscar Lasko Program & Activities Resource Campus, in Exton, PA.

2. Funding request

• Description of key initiatives

The Scouting financial assistance program is centered around breaking down barriers for under-resourced families within the communities we serve. The programs provided by Council are focused on the well-being of youth, mentally and physically, and their ability to make sound and moral decisions. Through achievement-based programming for younger youth and career development programs for older youth, our goal is to provide opportunities for *ALL* youth to learn, grow, explore, and engage with their community.

Council respectfully requests a grant of \$5,000 to underwrite its newly restructured financial assistance program supporting Scouts and low-income families. Funds will be utilized to distribute to under-resourced families providing access to Scouting programs and encouraging new membership across Chester County. Program elements covered under the financial assistance program include annual membership fees, program handbooks, and up to half of summer camp tuition for one year.

The annual cost for one youth to be in Scouting programs totals roughly \$700 which includes the annual membership fees, handbook, and summer camp experience. Council's goal is to welcome 500 new youth into our programs by the end of 2024.

• Specific needs & issues to be addressed

Council conducted a financial needs survey with its Scout units to better understand and determine the existing needs and potential barriers to membership in Scouting programs and concurrently facilitated focus groups with community leaders and stakeholders. We discovered financial burden is the number one barrier to accessing Scouting programs due to single-parent income, loss of jobs, medical conditions causing financial hardship, and families with multiple children and both parents participating in programs.

Through engagement with the community, Council has found there is a strong need for youth programs that address well-being, mental health and workforce development. Scouting places a high priority on the safety of youth, physically and mentally. In The Scouting Edge report published by National BSA, 69% of alumni indicate Scouting has a great deal of influence in building confidence in their abilities. Additionally, 64% of alumni and 51% of Scouts say Scouting had a great deal of influence on their ability to overcome adversity or problems with courage. The results of this report were comprised of two studies fielded online in the United States by The Harris Poll on behalf of the BSA.

• Why it is important to fund this now

In the current economic environment, very few youth programs are affordable. Youth in underserved communities have little to no access to leadership development programs. The family aspect of Scouting sets it apart from other youth organizations as parents/guardians experience Scouting together with their children. Parents are not sitting on the sidelines watching their children; they can fully engage in the program learning and growing with their children. Scouting lifts up families, bringing them together, and ultimately shedding positive light in the communities where they live and work. This positive community engagement is important in the present and the future as it shapes who youth are and who they will become as individuals. Council's vision is to serve *ALL* eligible youth regardless of race, creed, culture, gender, or socioeconomic background.

• How impact & results will be demonstrated

The top three anticipated outcomes for the financial assistance program are:

- Reduction of existing barriers and encouraging access to Scouting programs by providing financial assistance to underserved youth and families in need in Chester County communities.
- Increased participation in Scouting programs and summer camp as a result of financial support.
- Elevated exposure to leadership development and career pathway programs for all Chester County youth positively impacting Chester County families and communities. This will in turn increase the number of youth pursuing trades industry education and vocations following high school.

Scouting builds on community assets: youth, adults, businesses, schools, churches, and service clubs are all a part of Scouting in Chester County. Further, our camp programs emphasize education and learning through merit badge requirements and advancement, physical activity, team building, leadership training, and recreation.

A study conducted by the Harris Interactive Group notes that youth involved with Scouting are more likely to:

- Graduate from high school and college
- Have positive family and peer relations.
- Engage in community service.
- Have a higher income.

The study also showed that Scouts with at least five years' tenure in the program are more likely than youth who have never been Scouts to:

- Assume leadership roles in clubs or Assume leadership roles in clubs or school organizations.
- Place the needs of others before their own.
- Actively participate in after-school activities
- Resist peer pressure to take part in delinquent or dishonest activities.
- Have higher self-confidence

Scouting has the following impact on participating youth and their families:

- Enhanced mental health and self-esteem as a result of being valued members of a larger group, through the development of team skills and increased connection with the greater community;
- Development of leadership skills;
- Increased physical fitness and health;
- Decreased participation in self-destructive behaviors including drug and alcohol abuse, crime, and gang activity as a result of mentoring, positive role models, and ongoing support; and
- Increased exposure to the greater community resulting in less isolation.

Experience has shown that participation in Scouting programs has both short-term and long-term impacts including but not limited to improved health through safer environments and decreased stress, improved educational performance and outcomes for children, lower crime rates, improved academic performance, higher lifetime earnings, higher graduation rates, improved job stability, better health, improved access to job opportunities and support systems, and increased opportunities for civic participation.

Council has recently interviewed and gathered program impact stories from Scouts and Scouters (adult volunteers). Access the following links featuring testimonials from our Scouts BSA members:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEcbq_ODCFM&t=39s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNs3gfH8lnk>