

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 9/1/2024

Contact Information

Organization Name: **Great Valley Community Organization** ED/CEO Name: **Keith Walsh**
Address: **51 N. Bacton Hill Road Malvern PA 19355** ED/CEO E-mail: **execdirector@gvco.org**
Phone: **610-990-6168** Board Chair Name: **Tom Curran**
Website: **www.gvco.org** Board Chair Approval (check here): **X**
Year Incorporated: **2001** Primary Contact Name: **Joan Giombetti**
FEIN: **26-1139318** Primary Contact E-mail: **joan.giombetti@gvco.org**

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: The Great Valley Community Organization helps build a strong, vibrant and connected community by providing facilities, activities and programs enriching the lives of all local residents.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): **The Great Valley Community Organization (GVCO) serves the communities of Malvern Borough, Charlestown, East Whiteland and Willistown Townships as well as the surrounding regions of West Chester and Phoenixville in their philanthropy based programs.**

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: The Great Valley Community Organization (GVCO) is a community where friendships begin, families connect and a community thrives. On average, GVCO touches the lives of 2400 individuals each year from preschoolers to Senior Citizens.

Annual Budget \$ 596636 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff 1
51 % of budget for program expenses 6 # of Board Volunteers
32 % of budget for administrative expenses 300 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
17 % of budget for fundraising expenses 12000 # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Individual Donations, Programming, Fundraising

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: \$ 5000.00

Proposal Summary:

Grant Purpose:

The Great Valley Community Organization (GVCO) seeks capacity-building funding to expand and enhance its English Language Learner (ELL) program, a vital initiative in our community, in partnership with Back to Basics Learning Dynamics. This funding will help GVCO strengthen its infrastructure, improve program delivery, and serve more adult English Language Learners in the community.

Program Overview:

GVCO's ELL Program is a seminar designed to assist adult language learners in improving their English proficiency. The program provides free educational materials and classes and aims to enhance the participants' communication skills in the workplace, with their children's teachers, and within the community.

Partnership with Back to Basics Learning Dynamics:

Back to Basics Learning Dynamics, Inc. was founded to provide unparalleled 1-on-1 educational support. Back to Basics contributes to the needs of the regional communities by consistently providing high-quality wrap-around educational services to schools, districts, businesses, and government agencies. The partnership between the Great Valley Community Organization and Back to Basics Learning Dynamics is a powerful collaboration that allows GVCO to provide programming that meets the diverse needs of English Language Learners, promoting their success in professional and personal environments.

Capacity Building Objectives:

1. Program Expansion: Increase the capacity to serve more adult learners.
2. Sustainability Planning: Develop long-term sustainability strategies, including diversifying funding sources and building stronger community partnerships to support future growth.
3. Impact Evaluation: Establish monitoring and evaluation processes to assess program outcomes and continuously improve service quality.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increase in the number of English Language Learners served annually.
- Improved language proficiency and communication skills for program participants.
- Strengthened partnerships and resources to support the long-term sustainability of the ELL program.
- Enhanced organizational capacity to deliver high-quality educational services to the community.

Conclusion:

The capacity-building grant will enable the Great Valley Community Organization to deepen its impact in the community, expand its reach, and ensure the long-term success of its ELL program. Through its steadfast partnership with Back to Basics Learning Dynamics, GVCO is committed to empowering adult language learners with the skills they need to succeed in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

The Great Valley Community Organization (GVCO) was formed in 2001 as a recreational basketball program which has evolved into a comprehensive organization dedicated to fostering the growth and development of all community members. GVCO has blossomed from its humble beginnings into a vibrant hub, uniting over 12,000 families across a wide range of programs. These include arts, education, adaptive gym programs, internships, and senior activities catering to the diverse needs and interests of the community. In addition, GVCO offers sports and volunteer leadership opportunities for teens in collaboration with over 50 community partners, including renowned entities like Olweus and Cradles to Crayons, Home of the Sparrow, and so many more. GVCO's educational programs were created to fill gaps and enhance the educational experience for underserved individuals in the Great Valley School District area. Our ELL Program helps ESL/ELL learners' parents communicate with the school district, at work, and in the community.

As GVCO evolves, it remains committed to providing diverse year-round offerings, ensuring a safe, inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and part of a greater whole.

By following its mission, GVCO has created a genuinely connected community where people of all ages, incomes, cultures, and abilities are encouraged to celebrate their differences and share their uniqueness.

Our Impact

- Creating a safe, inclusive environment.
- Fostering unity, diversity, and inclusivity.
- Strengthening community bonds.
- Enriching lives across generations.

2. Funding request

• Description of key initiatives

The partnership between the Great Valley Community Organization (GVCO) and Back to Basics Learning Dynamics aims to deliver high-quality English Language Learner (ELL) programs that address the growing needs of adult language learners in the Great Valley area. The program will focus on:

ELL Seminars for Adults: An 8-week seminar series that provides no-cost English language education to adult learners, equipping them with essential communication skills for better integration into the community, workplace, and their children's schools.

Parent Support Program: A specialized component to help parents of ESL/ELL students improve their language skills, bridge communication gaps with teachers, and engage more effectively in their children's education.

Community Integration: Offering resources to help adult learners gain confidence and practical language skills to navigate daily life, engage with the community, and increase their employability.

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

The Great Valley area, including East Whiteland Township and surrounding neighborhoods, has experienced a growing demand for language education services due to an influx of non-native English-speaking families. Specific issues include:

Communication Barriers: Many parents struggle to communicate with their children's schools, workplaces, and local services due to limited English proficiency.

Employment Challenges: Adults with limited English face barriers in finding sustainable employment or advancing in their current jobs.

Social Integration: Language barriers often hinder these individuals from fully participating in community activities, accessing resources, and building social connections.

3. Why it is important to fund this now

The need for ELL services is immediate and growing. Funding this partnership now is crucial because:

Increased Demand: The region is experiencing growth in the non-native English-speaking population, leading to a need for language services.

Community Impact: Without timely intervention, communication gaps between parents and schools could worsen, affecting the educational outcomes of children and preventing families from fully engaging with the community.

Job Market Access: As the economy recovers, there are job opportunities available, but limited English proficiency is preventing many adults from accessing these jobs or advancing in their careers.

Immediate funding will allow GVCO and Back to Basics Learning Dynamics to respond to these challenges effectively and expand their program reach.

How impact & results will be demonstrated

The impact of this program will be tracked and measured through:

- **Enrollment & Completion Rates:** Tracking the number of adult learners who enroll in and complete the 8-week seminar series.
- **Language Proficiency Improvement:** Assessing participants' progress in English language skills through pre- and post-program evaluations.

- **Parent Engagement:** Monitoring increased parental involvement in their children’s education through feedback from schools and parents themselves.
- **Employment Outcomes:** Measuring participants' job placement rates, promotions, or increased job opportunities as a result of improved English proficiency.
- **Community Feedback:** Conducting surveys of program participants, local schools, and employers to gauge satisfaction and identify areas for improvement.

The program's success will be demonstrated by tangible improvements in participants' language abilities, increased parental engagement in education, and enhanced access to job opportunities for adult learners.

This capacity-building initiative aims to enhance GVCO’s ability to partner and collaborate with Back to Basics Learning Dynamics to deliver high-quality ELL programs for the community. By investing in infrastructure, hiring quality instructors, and community outreach, GVCO will be able to expand the reach of ELL services, strengthen partnerships with educational providers such as Back to Basics Learning Dynamics to improve sustainability, and build a framework to expand services for the community.

The impact of this partnership with Back to Basics Learning Dynamics will be measured using both qualitative and quantitative metrics, such as participant enrollment and retention rates, language proficiency improvements, and community feedback. We will also measure the development and effectiveness of our collaboration with Back to Basics Learning Dynamics.

Projected Schedule and Key Milestones

Month 1-2: Program Setup

- Finalize contracts with training organizations.
- Purchase and set up materials.

Month 3: Outreach and Recruitment

- Launch outreach campaign.
- Recruit 24 parents for ESL/ELL.

Month 4: Program Launch

- Start ESL/ELL classes

Month 6: Midpoint Evaluation

- Conduct interim evaluation and adjust as needed.

Month 7-10: Ongoing Delivery

- Regular ESL/ELL classes.
- Monitor progress and provide support.

Month 11: Final Evaluation Prep

- Collect data and prepare final evaluation.

Month 12: Final Evaluation

- Conduct final evaluation and submit report.

GVCO ELL PROGRAM COSTS*

*COST FOR 2 SESSION (FALL & WINTER)

FACILITIES \$1200

MATERIALS \$700

STAFFING \$2880

ADMINISTRATIVE \$1640

MISCELLANEOUS \$1440

TOTAL \$7860