

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 November 14, 2024

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Pathway School
Address: 162 Egypt Road, Jeffersonville, PA 19403

Phone: (610) 277-0660
Website: <https://www.pathwayschool.org/>
Year Incorporated: 1961
FEIN: 23-2586474

ED/CEO Name: David Schultheis
ED/CEO E-mail: dschultheis@pathwayschool.org
Board Chair Name: Lisa Brown
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Jory Barrad
Primary Contact E-mail: jbarrad@pathwayschool.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission:

Mission: Promote Success and Independence

The mission of The Pathway School is to build academic, social, and life skills in students with special needs to promote their success and independence after Pathway.

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

The greater Philadelphia region including the counties of Bucks (lower), Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia plus Lehigh and Berks counties.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Our student population this school year is currently 176 children and youth - students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Disabilities, emotional disturbances, significant learning disabilities, and other neurological impairments.

Annual Budget \$15,632,055.00 _____	157_ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
87% of budget for program expenses	15_ # of Board Volunteers
12% of budget for administrative expenses	110_ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
1% of budget for fundraising expenses	440_ # of Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>	

Top 3-5 funding sources: PA Dept of Education, IDEA-B, School Districts supported

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: \$10,000

Proposal Summary:

History, Goals, Key Achievements, and Distinctions:

Founded in 1961, The Pathway School, a nonprofit special education school in Montgomery County, has played an important role in the special education needs of students in our region. Currently, 62 school districts and charter schools from 7 counties refer students to Pathway. These districts rely on Pathway to provide students with leading-edge special education programming that offers a continuum of academic courses, life skills, a STEM-focused education, practical Career Education, and Transition Services.

Pathway's population includes students ages 5-21 in grades K through 12+ with specialized education needs resulting from challenges/disabilities including autism spectrum disorder, psychological disorders, emotional disturbances, intellectual, and developmental disabilities, and significant learning disabilities. Currently, 74% are from low- and moderate-income families, and 57% are racial minorities. Many of our students face multiple challenges causing them to be at risk. Pathway provides a supportive and holistic learning environment for students who otherwise may not have access to leading-edge and innovative opportunities to discover and expand their intellectual talent and develop skills leading to employment that will sustain them in adulthood. Pathway students' families are NOT required to pay tuition.

Our school includes the following programs: (1) Lower School Program, (2) Upper School Program (3) Emotional Support Program (4) Autism Support Classroom Program. We have a clinical team on campus, including two school psychologists, speech and occupational therapists, reading specialists, and behavior management staff that provide a range of clinical supports for our students. A key distinction in our programming is that we are a "technology-forward" school with a curriculum rooted in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) as we know that these are fields of utmost importance both for jobs of the future as well as functioning and living successfully in a 21st-century world. This differentiates Pathway from many other special education schools and enables us to develop successful students and adults prepared for life in the 21st century.

A key achievement is our investment in a state-of-the-art Innovation Center. First opened in 2019, this building continues to benefit our students and staff serving as the "hub" of STEM learning and activities on our campus. The Innovation Center has maker spaces, a Tools, Tech & Engineering Classroom (think "Woodshop 3.0"), a science class, and a Career Education program student-run cafe. STEM education and technology are infused throughout our curriculum and in all classrooms for students of all ages. Every student has a Chromebook. Each classroom has a Promethean smartboard and supporting technology. Our competitive Robotics team is entering its 3rd year of competition in the FIRST Robotics program competing against other teams primarily made up of neurotypical students. In its first two years of competition, our team won awards and recognition. Our participation in the FIRST Robotics competition benefits our students and communities from an inclusivity perspective. In these competitions, teams compete against each other, and they also form collaborative alliances.

Specific Needs & Issues to Be Addressed:

Pathway students are encouraged to embrace technology through education, in developing life skills, and in our Career Education Program. To remain current, we continually upgrade and update our curriculum. This investment ranges from \$30,000 to \$50,000 annually. We raise private funds to support our STEM curriculum, equipment to support hands-on STEM learning, and other important upgrades on our campus. Parents, family, friends, and Pathway staff assist with fundraising efforts where possible. These efforts at Pathway enable us to remain an innovative, technology-forward educational program providing 21st-century life skills for our students.

Grant funding helps Pathway students in several important ways:

1. STEM Curriculum: As stated above, we regularly update our curriculum and related technology products and equipment to support hands-on, experiential STEM learning at Pathway.

2. Robotics Program: All Pathway students can participate in our Robotics class program, which is a core component of our STEM offerings. This includes basic computer coding.
3. Robotics Competition Team: Our competition team provides students with the opportunity to engage in hands-on, collaborative learning, work in teams with other students and other schools' teams, and showcase their skills and accomplishments in the FIRST Robotics competitions.
*This is another key achievement – our Robotics Team has won awards, been recognized as Rookie team of the year, and has made it to the regional championship round in both of its first two years of competition.
4. Career Exploration in STEM fields: Grants support enhanced opportunities for career exploration and development in the STEM disciplines including robotics, coding, engineering, and more.

Because we continually update and upgrade our curriculum and equipment, ongoing private support through grant funding is vital in supporting our students' education, development, growth and success.

Why It Is Important to Fund This Now:

Each year between 175 and 185 students' families rely on Pathway to provide leading-edge and individualized special education programming for their children that their districts were not able to effectively provide. While public funding helps cover most of Pathway students' tuition expenses, private donations and contributions from donors, foundations, and corporate partners enable us to update and upgrade our STEM curriculum, technology, and equipment, to provide programming in the arts including performing arts, theatre arts, music, and language arts, and to upgrade our campus facilities. Each year we rely on the generosity of private donors to help Pathway remain an innovative and leading-edge special education school with clinical and behavioral services, career education programming, and transition services.

Outcomes and Measurements-Demonstration of Impact and Results:

An important project outcome of our STEM program is providing students with opportunities to use learned 21st-century skills in post-Pathway opportunities, such as two-year or four-year college, trade school, military, and in the workforce. Specifically, our Robotics program/team provides relevant education and robotics experiences to these students. These students can then be better prepared for jobs that involve STEM skills which will be ever-increasing in the job market.

We measure outcomes through regular assessments, quarterly progress reports, and monitoring of students' individual goals. We monitor outcomes related to curriculum and technology using similar assessment tools. For robotics classes, the competition team, basic coding and other STEM classes, similar assessments are employed to measure students (1) academic progress and (2) interest in further pursuing STEM vocational curricula (3) and we track post-secondary education and employment of students post-graduation from Pathway.

Funding Request Summary:

A grant from The Chester County Community Foundation, and/or its Field of Interest and Donor Advised Funds would greatly benefit Pathway School students, including those who live in Chester County, as we provide life-changing programming leading to success for them both while in school and later on as adults after they leave Pathway. Thank you for your consideration!

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

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.*

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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