



JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS

The Chester County Community Foundation accepts applications from selected nonprofit charitable causes for the **Jonas C., Marian D., & Robert H. Erb Charitable Fund**, a fund of the Chester County Community Foundation.

Proposals are due by Friday, March 14, 2025. Upon review of the initial proposals, a site visit may be conducted of the finalists. Grants will be awarded in the fall. Grant awards typically range from \$50,000 - \$100,000.

Please use the attached Grant Proposal Format to apply for a grant.

Grant applications should be submitted electronically by Friday, March 14, 2025 to grants@chescof.org. The e-mail heading should read: Grant Proposal Submission- Erb Charitable Fund

Please note that all grant applications will be available electronically on the Chester County Community Foundation's website for additional consideration for grant funding by the Community Foundation's Donor Advised Fund Advisors.

Questions? Please contact:
Stephenie Stevens, Grants Director & Outreach Officer
Chester County Community Foundation
28 West Market Street
West Chester, PA 19382
www.chesdcocf.org
Steph@chescof.org
(610) 696-8211





JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

I. SUMMARY SHEET

(One page only. This page will be shared with Grant Committee Members.)

Date: February 8, 2025

Contact Information:

Organization Name: North Wales Area Library
Address:
233 S. Swartley Street, North Wales PA 19454

Phone: (215) 699.5410

Web Address: www.northwaleslibrary.org

Contact Name: Jennifer M. Koch

Contact Title: Director

Contact Email:

Jkoch@northwaleslibrary.org

Fax:

Year Incorporated: 1978

Has your nonprofit previously applied to the Community Foundation: Yes ___ No X

Field/s of Interest:

X Arts, Culture and Humanities

___ Environment/Animal Welfare

___ Health

___ Human Services

X Education

___ Religion

Organizational Information:

Geographic Area Served: *Montgomery County, North Wales, Upper Gwynedd, Montgomery Township, Hatfield and Towamencin.*

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: 20,041

Mission Statement: By sharing information and providing opportunities for life-long learning, we enrich the lives of the communities that we serve.

Organization Description:

Annual Budget \$363,425.00

5.0 % of budget for program expenses

90 % of budget for administrative expenses

5.0 % of budget for fundraising expenses

100 % total

3- # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

10- # of Board Volunteers

15- # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

2342 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: Municipality & State Aid, Special Programming & Activities and Donations

Proposal Information:

The North Wales Area Library seeks \$100,000 from Jonas C., Marian D., & Robert H. Erb Charitable Fund to transform our children's section into an inclusive, accessible space that honors Robert Erb's legacy of equitable access to knowledge and education. This renovation project will enhance services for thousands of children annually, with a particular focus on creating adaptive spaces for neurodivergent children and those with sensory needs.



JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

*Please provide the following information clearly and concisely.
Proposals of 1 or 2 pages are strongly encouraged.*

1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

Founded in 1924 above "Ye Old Iron Lantern", the North Wales Area Library embodies Robert Erb's motto of "Simple Beginnings with great endings." Like Mr. Erb's 45-year dedication to Montgomery County Community College, our library has grown from humble roots to become a cornerstone of community education and excellence.

Our commitment to outstanding service is evidenced by several distinguished achievements:

- Continuous maintenance of PAForward Gold Star status since 2018, recognizing our excellence in promoting five essential literacies:
 - Basic Literacy, Information Literacy, Civic and Social Literacy, Health Literacy & Financial Literacy
- Recognition as one of only three Star Libraries in Pennsylvania (among 7,663 nationwide) in 2016
- 101 years of continuous service and growth, evolving from rooms above a restaurant to the basement of North Wales High School, and finally to our own dedicated building

These achievements reflect our unwavering dedication to providing exceptional library services to our diverse community. Today, we stand at a crucial juncture in our evolution, seeking to ensure that our children's section reflects modern needs while maintaining our commitment to accessible education for all.

2. Funding request: \$100,000.00

A. Specific Chester County and/or Montgomery County needs and issues addressed.

Cross-County Educational Impact while the North Wales Area Library is in Montgomery County, our commitment to equitable access to knowledge mirrors Robert Erb's vision of education without boundaries. Just as Mr. Erb dedicated 45 years to Montgomery County Community College while impacting countless lives across county lines, our library serves as a beacon of learning that welcomes all visitors, regardless of their county of residence.

Addressing Educational Inequities, the renovation will help address critical gaps in services:

- Limited availability of sensory resources for home use
- Lack of private spaces for counseling and therapy
- Insufficient adaptive technology access
- Need for quiet spaces for children with sensory sensitivities

- The ability to create a catalog of items that can be signed out & taken home.

A. Organizational impact (for general operating proposals) or project impact (for project proposals)

Currently, our 11-year-old children's section faces several challenges:

- Lack of private spaces for counseling sessions and quiet study
- Inadequate accommodation for children with sensory needs
- Outdated flooring and walls create a drab atmosphere for children
- Limited resources for neurodivergent children (currently serving 11% of our youth population)
- Only 3% of programming specifically designed for inclusive needs

Partnerships and Community Impact:

- North Penn School District
- Mission Kids
- Atypically Amazing Kids
- Montgomery Parent Association
- Odyssey of the Mind

These partnerships ensure maximum community benefit and utilization of the renovated space. Currently, 11% of our young patrons have sensory or neurodivergent needs, and we aim to increase our inclusive programming from 3% to 20% through this renovation.

B. Overall strategies to implement the organization's mission (or project)

1. Phased Implementation Approach

- Begin with structural renovations (55% of budget) to create the foundational space
- Systematically integrate sensory equipment and privacy solutions
- Ensure minimal disruption to existing library services during renovation

2. Inclusive Design Strategy

- Partner with specialists from organizations like Atypically Amazing Kids and Montgomery Parent Association to ensure space meets diverse needs
- Incorporate universal design principles that benefit all children while specifically supporting those with sensory needs
- Create flexible spaces that can adapt to changing community needs

3. Community Engagement Strategy

- Regular consultation with partners for ongoing feedback
- Implement survey mechanisms to gather user feedback and track impact from the community

4. Resource Integration Strategy

- Develop a library of sensory items for home use (20% of budget)
- Create private study and therapy spaces through strategic pod placement (15% of budget)

- Integrate adaptive technology solutions (10% of budget)

5. Programming Enhancement Strategy

- Increase inclusive programming from the current 3% to targeted 10%
- Train staff on new equipment and inclusive practices
- Develop specialized programs utilizing new resources

6. Measurement and Evaluation Strategy

- Track visitor numbers and program participation rates
- Conduct regular surveys to assess community impact
- Monitor usage statistics for new equipment and space

C. Why it is important to fund this now

1. Growing Community Need

- Current statistics show 11% of young patrons have sensory or neurodivergent needs
- Only 3% of programming is currently inclusive, falling far short of community requirements
- Multiple stakeholders (parents, teachers, and community organizations) have expressed urgent need for adaptive resources

2. Facility Limitations

- The current children's section is 11 years old and significantly outdated
- Lack of private spaces compromises the ability to provide essential services
- Current layout poses safety concerns with children potentially "escaping" from distracted parents
- Drab environment fails to engage and support diverse learning needs

3. Partnership Opportunities

Current partnerships ready to utilize the improved space:

- North Penn School District
- Atypically Amazing Kids
- Our Community Patrons

4. Building on Momentum

- Library's recent 101st anniversary celebration provides perfect timing for next evolution
- Strong track record of excellence (PAForward Gold Star status since 2018)
- Recognition as one of only three Star Libraries in Pennsylvania demonstrates readiness for expansion

3. Timetable, with anticipated outcomes and their relevance to the nonprofit's mission

Alignment with Robert Erb's Legacy:

This project embodies Robert Erb's motto "Simple Beginnings with great endings" in several ways:



1. Like our library's journey from rooms above a restaurant to a cornerstone of community education, this project will transform a simple children's section into an inclusive learning hub.
2. The renovation supports Erb's belief in equitable access to knowledge and education for all.
3. The project ensures that every child, regardless of their learning style or sensory needs, has equal access to educational resources.

Measurable Outcomes:

We will track success through:

1. Visitor numbers to the children's section
2. Program participation rates
3. Regular survey feedback from families
4. Usage statistics for sensory equipment and privacy pods
5. Partnership program attendance

III. ATTACHMENTS

Please attach the following 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 and financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year and current fiscal year to date
5. Itemized project budget (if applying for project-specific grant)

Note: The Philanthropy Network's Grant Application may be submitted with CCCF Summary Sheet. Please visit our website at www.chescocf.org to obtain an electronic version of this application. E-mail applications are strongly encouraged.

Please e-mail completed applications to:
Stephenie Stevens, Grants Director & Outreach Officer
Chester County Community Foundation
28 West Market Street
West Chester, PA 19382
grants@chescocf.org www.chescocf.org
(610) 696-8211

THANK YOU!





JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND

Mission...

Charitable purpose limited to education, especially those involving reading, writing and speech, with an emphasis on attending Montgomery County Community College, or similar credited institution in Chester, Montgomery, or Delaware Counties in Pennsylvania, through direct scholarships or to provide assistance to such colleges through their programs and activities, which in the discretion of the Founding Fund Advisors, make a significant impact on learning enhancement and learning skills.

About Robert H. Erb...

Robert H. Erb joined the Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) faculty in 1970 as a librarian, just 6 years after the College's founding. He often worked evenings and enjoyed helping adult students, assisting them with their research, listening to their stories, and providing encouragement. His service in the library continued for 45 years until his retirement in 2015. However, Mr. Erb's commitment to MCCC did not end with his tenure. As a passionate learner and an avid steward of his community, Mr. Erb was always looking to improve and learn more each day, and he wanted to help MCCC students do the same. He was passionate about the community college mission and equitable access to education and information for all. Simply put, Mr. Erb "wanted Montco to be a 'reflection of the community.'" That is one of the many reasons he continued his partnership with the College as a philanthropist both during and after his employment.

Unfortunately, in July of 2021, Mr. Erb passed away. Described as a gentle, friendly, and caring person, who always lived by the motto, "Simple beginnings with great endings," Mr. Erb will be missed as a physical presence on campus, but his effect on students, both through his giving as an employee and a donor, live on through the community at large in perpetuity.