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 2/11/25

Contact Information

Organization Name: Maternal and Child Health Consortium
Address: 1475 Phoenixville Pike Suite 12
West Chester, PA 19380
Phone: 610-344-5370
Website: ccmchc.org
Year Incorporated: 1991
FEIN: 23-2775806

ED/CEO Name: Milena Lanz
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Board Chair Name: Allison G. Richards
Board Chair Approval (check here): ☑
Primary Contact Name: Milena Lanz
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Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: To advocate for and empower prenatal and parenting families to achieve healthy beginnings and a bright future through a caring culture of service.

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

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Annual Budget $3,523,731
87% of budget for program expenses
7% of budget for administrative expenses
6% of budget for fundraising expenses
100 % total

36 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
8 # of Board Volunteers
10 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
2,500 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: Chester County Department of Children, Youth and Families, PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning, PA Department of Health

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: $7,500

Proposal Summary: Drawing from evidence-based practices in home visiting and early childhood development, MCHC provides family support, health care access, and educational programs for families with children to help build a strong foundation for health and school readiness.

Milena O. Lanz
Executive Director

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Organization History: In 1991, Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC) emerged from a collaboration between the Chester County Health Department, March of Dimes of Southeastern PA, and other local providers to address gaps in prenatal care access impacting low-income families in Greater Philadelphia. In 1995, with funding from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, we started providing prenatal case management for pregnant and parenting women and a bilingual public benefits enrollment assistance initiative, the Family Benefits Program, for individuals and families with children under 19 years-old. In 1997, we became one of 100 federally funded Healthy Start Programs in the country. In 2006, MCHC launched the Family Center Program to bridge a gap in kindergarten readiness. In 2014, MCHC started a partnership with the Chester County Department of Children, Youth and Families to extend home visiting services to justice-involved families to help overcome familial conflict and prevent unnecessary child placement. Now, MCHC serves upwards of 5,000 people every year in Chester County and western Montgomery County, PA to access important health care resources and build the foundation for lifelong health.

Goals: Our goals are to reduce health disparities and improve healthcare access for families with young children.

Key Achievements: MCHC's most significant achievement is its success in helping families achieve healthy outcomes. Nearly 3,000 uninsured children and caregivers gain access to important medical care every year. Additionally, over 85% of children enrolled in MCHC's home-visiting program reach age-appropriate developmental milestones by the time they enter kindergarten. MCHC is accredited by the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO) and a Parents as Teachers (PAT) Blue Ribbon Affiliate, reflecting its dedication to upholding industry standards in nonprofit governance and excellence in program delivery.

Distinctiveness: MCHC is distinct for its evidence-based approach to improving health outcomes. Equipping local families with the knowledge and tools to foster self-sufficiency is essential. Programs that focus on children from birth to age five offer one of the highest returns on investment, as research consistently shows the lasting impact of early development on a child's health, academic achievement, and future economic stability. Early intervention not only addresses immediate needs but also plays a critical role in breaking the cycle of poverty, ensuring that children start school prepared.

Key Initiatives: MCHC's **Family Center Program** serves pregnant women and parents with children up to age five using the evidence-based Parents as Teachers home-visiting service model and its newly introduced Doula Assisted Wellness Network to train and employ certified birth doulas to work with high risk pregnant women. The program includes prenatal and postnatal health education,

screening and support for depression, labor and delivery planning, lactation support, ensuring that moms-to-be have holistic support to prevent challenges during this critical period.

Another key program component of the program is the early parenthood home-visiting support for parents with children aged 0-5, emphasizing positive parent-child relationships and developmental milestones. For children up to age two, Parent Educators focus on interactive activities that enhance cognitive skills, problem-solving, and early literacy. They also assist parents in managing behavioral challenges and encourage routines that foster independence. Parent Educators conduct developmental screenings for vision, hearing, motor, and social-emotional skills to identify any early delays, ensuring timely referrals to Early Intervention services when needed. As children approach preschool age, Parent Educators provide guidance on school readiness, including early literacy and social skills. The program culminates in two weeks of classroom experiences for children entering the K-12 system, fostering a love for learning through play and peer interactions. Parents also participate in Parents Café events throughout the year, which is a strengths-based approach for families to build their support system.

MCHC's **Family Benefits Program** helps eligible community members access state-subsidized health care and food benefits. Through annual one-on-one appointments, specialists assist with applying for Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, and WIC programs. They verify eligibility, ensure required documentation is in place, explain coverage options, and provide renewal reminders. Our team stays updated on policy changes to help community members navigate barriers to healthcare and food security, ensuring they receive the support they need for improved access to essential services.

Needs and Issues Addressed: The United States is facing a maternal and infant health crisis, with the highest maternal mortality rate among high-income countries and alarmingly high infant mortality rates, particularly among marginalized communities. According to the Office of Women's Health, pregnant women who do not receive prenatal care are five times more likely to die and three times more likely to have a low-birth-weight baby compared to those who receive care. Between 2020 and 2023, 12.6% of women in Chester County received either late or no prenatal care, putting both their health and the health of their babies at significant risk. Additionally, 6.3% of babies born in the county were low birth weight, a major indicator of potential long-term health issues. Furthermore, 3.4% of children, or approximately 4,300 children, are uninsured, leaving them without critical access to healthcare (Census Bureau ACS 2023).

Too many children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds begin kindergarten without the age-appropriate skills needed to succeed. These readiness gaps impact early literacy and social-emotional development, which are crucial for long-term academic success. Despite increased funding for Pre-K Counts in Pennsylvania, there remains a significant gap in access to early childhood education in Chester County. According to Pre-K for PA data for 2023-2024, 3,680 children aged three to four re eligible for pre-K, but 65% remains unserved due to workforce shortages and insufficient federal investment. Limited availability, transportation barriers, and a lack of continuity between pre-K and kindergarten programs make it challenging for many families to access early learning resources.

Why it is important to fund this now: Maternal and child health disparities represent some of the most urgent and complex issues we face today. In the United States, giving birth carries more risk than in any other high-income country, with women experiencing severe maternal morbidity and even

dying from preventable pregnancy-related complications. At the same time, low-income families are grappling with the challenge of meeting basic health care and food access needs. Too many young children are not reaching age-appropriate developmental milestones before entering kindergarten, putting them at risk of falling behind.

How impact and results are demonstrated: Success is determined by the number of individuals served and outcomes of the support provided. Goals are set annually based on PAT curriculum recommendations and staff capacity. Data is captured in MCHC's case management database and progress is reviewed by program management to ensure continuous quality improvement. MCHC shares impact updates and success stories through social media, newsletters, and annual reports.

Annual Objectives (2025):

1. 217 families will be served through home-vising services; an estimated 543 individuals.
2. 36 preschool-aged children will participate in the Summer Kindergarten Transition Program.
3. 18 Group Connection events will be held for parents.
4. 95% of pregnant women will receive health coverage for prenatal care and/or delivery and 95% of infants will receive insurance within 45 days of birth for pediatric care.
5. 95% of babies born (those whose mother enrolled in the program prenatally or at least 3 months before delivery) will be born with a healthy weight (at least 5.5 pounds).
6. 90% of mothers served by the program during pregnancy will breastfeed for at least the first three months postpartum.
7. 95% of children will be screened for age-appropriate developmental milestones (communication, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, problem-solving, and personal-social skills), and those displaying signs of a delay or area of concern will be referred for additional support and assessment. *Tool: ASQ-3 Ages and Stages Questionnaires, Third Edition and ASQ-SE Ages and Stages Questionnaires: Social-Emotional.*
8. 85% of families will receive a Parenting Interaction with Children assessment within the 90 days of enrollment, and then annually thereafter. *Tool: PICCOLO- Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes.*
9. 85% of parents will be screened for depression within 90 days of enrollment and annually thereafter, and at least 75% of the ones who show symptoms of depression receive a referral to a mental health resource. *Tool: Parental Mental Health – PHQ-9 Patient Health Questionnaire.*
10. 85% of caregivers will be screened for intimate partner violence and those with a positive result, or who indicate experiencing IPV, receive support accessing domestic violence support resources promptly. *Tool: Relationship Assessment Tool (RAT).*
11. 85% of children attending the Summer Kindergarten Transition Program will show progress in achieving school readiness milestones. *Tool: observation assessment.*
12. 90% of parents with a child enrolled in the Summer Kindergarten Transition Program will report increased confidence and knowledge in parenting, the school system, and community resources. *Tool: survey.*
13. 90% of children who will enter the Summer Kindergarten Transition Program will be assessed for foundational skills (cognitive, coordination, social). *Tool: Bracken School Readiness assessment conducted in September and May.*
14. 1,800 eligible individuals will be enrolled into health insurance (MA/CHIP) and 1,200 individuals will be enrolled into SNAP food benefits; 85% will be approved for coverage.