



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 5/7/25

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Garage Community & Youth Center ED/CEO Name: Kristin Proto
Address: 115 S. Union Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348 & 121 Pennsylvania Ave, Avondale, PA 19311
ED/CEO E-mail: Kristin.proto@garageyouthcenter.org

Phone: 610-444-6464

Website: www.garageyouthcenter.org

Year Incorporated: 2001

FEIN: 10-0007967

Board Chair Name: David Kreh

Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒

Primary Contact Name: Kate Henson

Primary Contact E-mail:

Kate.Henson@garageyouthcenter.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

☒ Arts, Culture & Humanities

☐ Environment/Animal Welfare

☒ Education

☐ Health

☒ Human Services

☐ Religion

Mission: The mission of The Garage is to empower youth to pursue their potential academically, relationally, and spiritually. Our desired impact is to: help youth make wise decisions about themselves, their core convictions, their relationships, their educational pursuits, and interactions with their communities. The Garage assists students to begin a cycle of hopefulness by acknowledging and taking steps to overcome life challenges, engage in programs, trusting The Garage as a second home, taking part in shaping activities, and enjoying productive experiences.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): Southern Chester County, primarily the Kennett Consolidated and Avon Grove school district areas.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

In 2024, The Garage served 494 individual students and 282 community parents. Our target population is from economically depressed households with parents who work long hours in the mushroom industry and face numerous language and cultural challenges. Many Garage families speak little-to-no English, thus most of the resources, information, and opportunities are overlooked.

In 2024, The Garage served a diverse group of 6th-12th grade students comprising 85% Latino, 2% African American, 3% Mixed race, 9% Caucasian, and 1% Asian. For 38% of our population, neither parent graduated high school and 83% of students are eligible to receive free and reduced lunch based on familial income as a result of living between 130-180% of the poverty level (Up to \$54,000 annual household income for a family of 4).

Annual Budget \$1,501,063

85 % of budget for program expenses

6 % of budget for administrative expenses

9 % of budget for fundraising expenses

100 % total

5 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

10 # of Board Volunteers

154 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

2,553 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources:

The Longwood Foundation - \$200,000 over 2 years

United Way of Southern Chester County - \$70,000

Royal Bank of Canada - \$50,000

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building ____ or General Operating __X__?

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 - \$25,000

Proposal Summary:

The Garage Community & Youth Center respectfully requests \$5,000 of General Operating programs support to help fund the ongoing expenses of our After-School Program in Kennett Square and our expanded Avondale Space.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

In 2001, a local pastor and businessman saw the opportunity for a reclaimed car garage to serve a greater purpose than service vehicles. The Garage Community & Youth Center (The Garage) was born from his passion for serving the community and over two decades later, we continue to thrive in Kennett Square. This success launched the desire to open a second location to serve more youth in the surrounding communities. In 2011, The West Grove location opened its doors to local youth. The need for out of school time programming, community-based education spaces, and trusted “Third Places” for youth and families have deeply increased due to multiple factors including the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, educational shifts, and more. In 2021, The Garage expanded to a larger location in the Borough of Avondale and has transitioned services from our West Grove location. We focus on achieving the follow specific goals through our programmatic outputs:

- *Create an environment where teens feel safe and their basic needs are met:* The Garage prides itself on providing a safe, open environment, where all students are welcome, regardless of circumstances, beliefs, or abilities. We provide a “third place” outside of school and home where students feel supported physically, emotionally, and mentally.
- *Encourage students to stay in school and to continue their studies after graduation:* Garage population faces academic hurdles fueled by discrimination, language barriers, and other hurdles. We provide a support system through relationships and tangible services including computer lab access, tutoring, and internet access to assist with studies. High school-age students are encouraged to participate in our MAPS Program which will continue to assist with post-secondary navigation.
- *Promote social, and professional development:* The Garage promotes and provides healthy and impactful relationships with adults who our students can trust through mentorship, community service, and program activities. The Garage has a wide network of partners who provide presentations and programs including career insights, enrichment activities, tutorials, and more!
- *Promote economic opportunities:* Career Compass employs up to 25 students during the summer, 25-30 hours per week for 8 weeks. Program participants complete a formal application and interview process and are placed at worksites around the community based on their professional aspirations. Past host sites have included law firms, doctors’ offices, educational institutions, police departments, and other private businesses. Weekly resource workshops are required for students to attend which builds further skills in financial literacy, communications, professional development, and other job and life skills.

2. Funding request

Description of key initiatives

The Garage utilizes resources of talented staff, volunteers, and an active community to master our craft in each unique area of our programming. Our current population is students 6-12th grade, ages 11-18. Out of School Time programming operates Monday-Thursday 3 PM – 6 PM during the school year and will pivot to Monday through Thursday from 11 AM – 4 PM during summer months. Our programs are designed to ensure that a student is satiated with quality experiences and support at all stages of their time with us. The Garage is excited to expand services based upon the needs of our community which are aligned with our programmatic strategies to offer the following programs:

- **Academic Support:** The Garage’s daily, academic support time serves to empower students to achieve, which will open them up to further opportunities. Emphasis on academic performance is geared towards giving youth the tools they need to finish high school and be in a position where they can pursue post-secondary education or training, or gainful employment, thus empowering them to have hopeful futures and confidence in their endeavors.
- **MAPS (Motivating and Advancing Powerful Students):** We focus on advising and counseling Garage students as they prepare for and transition to life after high school graduation. MAPS offers presentations and workshop sessions related to career interests and opportunities, post-secondary education and training programs, and personal aptitude and passion identification. The Garage's Graduate Coordinator works with high school students at both Garage centers to navigate post-secondary success.
- **Career Compass:** The Garage’s workforce development program is an extension of our summer program opportunities. Because many of our student’s families depend on them financially, summer is typically when students are not engaged with The Garage or any other support programs. Unfortunately, employment opportunities for youth are limited, and most students

resort to strenuous agricultural jobs. Through Career Compass, students are hired and paid to work at host sites around the community related to their post-secondary career interests.

- **Nutrition Kitchen:** Recognizing that hunger can significantly impact a student's ability to learn and thrive, The Garage offers a daily meal to students, prepared in our commercial kitchens by a professional chef. We work with many partners including local restaurants, The Chester County Food Bank, Kennett Consolidated School District, Avon Grove School District, and surrounding grocery stores to provide food and supplies to our students regularly.
- **Garage Body Shop:** The Garage Body Shop provides weekly fitness and physical health workshops where students learn about the benefits and safety of weight lifting, proper cardio, stretching, and how to maintain healthy growing bodies. Students work together to perform physical activity but also learn trust and relational skills through a safe and comfortable workout space. Our Body Shop coordinator is a certified personal trainer who is also certified in trauma-informed physical activity, highlighting best practices which holistically serves our students as they navigate the connection between mental and physical connection.
- **Social Development Program (TOP):** The Garage received a multi-year grant through the Department of Health to provide the research-based Wyman Center's "Teen Outreach Program" (TOP) curriculum as part of our Out of School time programming. TOP is a nationally-recognized, evidence-based program empowering teens with the tools and opportunities to build social-emotional skills, strengthen relationships, and avoid risky behaviors. Interactive weekly lessons are provided by our trained Garage staff to promote core values of skill building, exploring identity and engaging with the community while lowering risks of academic course failure, school suspension, and sexual activity.
- **Makerspace:** The Garage's Makerspace includes supplies and tools for various forms of art and skills including pottery, painting, woodworking, and more. Garage students can access this space daily and work in a creative a la carte fashion and use the space for expression, problem-solving, and skill-building. Further, the space is open to the community for classes, a monthly open studio, rental opportunities, and local art events.
- **Therapy Services:** The Garage has partnered with New London Counseling Center (NLCC) to provide in-house counseling and mental health services through the contracting of licensed mental health professionals. Once a week, at both centers, a bilingual therapist provides individual and group therapy sessions. Further, our partnership with NLCC has expanded to combine the healing power of creativity through Art Therapy provided in our Avondale Makerspace.
- **Community Service:** The Garage offers opportunities for community service, both volunteer and court-mandated, to those who are looking to serve our mission and community. Through service, students can explore career options, learn about additional community resources, as well as create a habit of giving back to their local community.
- **Parent Resource Program:** Parent Resource Programming as an essential piece of making our programs successful and improving the lives of parents in our network. Each Garage center now employs a Parent Coordinator who connects daily with program parents. Through monthly workshops and resource development, The Garage also provides connections to other non-profits and services to improve the lives of our students and their families.

Specific needs & issues to be addressed

The Garage Community & Youth Center is deeply committed to our mission of empowering youth to reach their potential through educational and emotional support, leadership development, and community engagement. Since its inception over two decades ago, Garage programs have served serve as a vital resource for at-risk youth in our community, offering them a safe space to learn, grow, and thrive, and we will continue to do so as long as we are in existence. Over 24 years later, The Garage's population continues to be presented with challenges that seem insurmountable, facing trends that directly hinder their quality of life. However, like the students and families we serve, our organization continues to learn, grow, adapt, and build resilience in a world where challenges and barriers seem overwhelming. We are honored to stand alongside our community, raising a voice for those who can't speak, running for those who can't walk, and embracing those who feel alone.

It is our understanding, through our work and experience in the field of youth development, that all youth face potential threats and obstacles that hinder them from finding value and purpose, in turn, incapacitating full access as a member of their community. While addressing the inequities of systems that directly affect local youth, The Garage's work is informed by an asset model that recognizes that our youth are not broken; instead it is the systems surrounding them which are fractured. These systems include but are not limited to:

- **Educational Inequities:** Black and Hispanic youth in Pennsylvania experience significantly lower educational opportunities compared to White youth, with large achievement gaps in reading and math, lower AP enrollment, and disparities in school funding and discipline.

- **Residency Status:** Immigration and residency status create challenges for youth and families, including housing insecurity, exploitative labor conditions, fear of accessing social services, and language barriers that limit access to financial, healthcare, and employment resources.
- **Socio-Economic Factors:** Generational poverty requires long-term investment and systemic support, as escaping poverty can take nearly 20 years, with education being a critical but fragile pathway that can be easily disrupted.

Why it is important to fund this now

The services, programs, and supports provided by The Garage have been essential in youth and community members' success for over two decades. The work was important when we opened our doors in 2001, and it is important now as we celebrate over 24 years of operations. However, it would be a disservice to those we serve if there was no mention of the massive shifts in economy, politics, health, and education over the past five years. In our current climate, it is paramount to direct efforts and attention to the organizations who offer holistic services to those who are vulnerable. To endanger and disregard community-based spaces, including The Garage, is to endanger and disregard the upward trajectory of community youth and families, particularly those who have been further plummeted into uncertain and fearful situations. The Garage sees a world where the future of our population does not fall victim to the fractured system in which they exist, but to thrive as successful, balanced, healthy, and active members who are essential to the success of the community as a whole. The significance of Out of School Time programming is not a new concept. These programs provide a significant return-on-investment, with every \$1 invested saving at least \$3 through increasing youth's earning potential, improving their performance at school, and reducing crime and juvenile delinquency. An investment in The Garage and the space provided, not just physically but emotionally and relationally, is vital to investing in youth and their narrative of success.

How impact & results will be demonstrated

The Garage administers pre and post-program surveys to track student growth over program duration. In addition, surveys are sent to parents at the completion of the school year to gain insights from inside the home. The Garage utilizes a custom database system, Apricot, to streamline our data to improve accuracy, improve how data is used to inform programming decisions and improve the efficiency and capacity of staff.

- 425 individual middle and high School students attend The Garage throughout the calendar year
- At least 95% of students report understanding the physical impacts of drugs, alcohol, vaping, and sexual activity.
- At least 95% of students reported an understanding of the legal consequences of these actions on top of the physical impacts.
- At least 85 % of Garage students will report that The Garage assists them in making better decisions.
- At least 75% of students who actively participate in Garage programs report that the Garage helps them avoid skipping or dropping out of school.
- At least 80% of core students feel confident making healthy choices about their mind and body
- At least 80% of core students report feelings of importance and belonging while participating in Garage programs.
- Students have increased accountability/ responsibility while participating in Garage programs/Students have a stronger awareness and sense of community.
- Students know the needs of their community and feel empowered to help through various channels
- Students become more engaged with their communities and seek to build partnerships, friendships, and professional relationships.
- Core students report feelings of confidence in a new passion or interest or confidence to explore a potential passion or interest
- At least 70% of core students report feeling confident in expressing themselves through art
- At least 80% of core students report feelings of importance and belonging while participating in Garage programs.
- At least 70% of core students feel motivated while participating in Garage programming.
- At least 70% of core students feel hopeful for their future while participating in Garage programming
- At Least 70% of core students report feeling created with value and purpose while participating in Garage programs.
- Students feel comfortable discussing mental and emotional health in a supportive environment
- Students gain and are able to execute skills to cope with a wide range of emotional issues including anxiety, stress, trauma, and other mental health issues.
- Students feel informed about potential educational and career opportunities and feel that they are attainable and accessible to them
- 100% of core Garage senior students who actively participate in programs provided will graduate from high school
- 100% of Career Compass participants complete the program in full and feel a sense of direction towards educational and professional post-secondary goals
- At least 75% of MAPS students express an interest in post-secondary education and feel supported to explore those avenues
- 75% of seniors who actively participated in MAPS enroll in post-secondary education or training

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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