

**Chester County Community Foundation Grant Request**

NAME OF ORGANIZATION Project Libertad

Address: 1220 Black Powder Drive, Phoenixville, PA 19460

Phone: 484-302-8551 Fax: none

E-mail: info@projectlibertad.org Website: www.projectlibertad.org

Executive Director: Rachel Rutter, Esq.

Current Board President: Christine Gartner, M.Ed.

Primary Contact: Rachel Rutter, Esq. Title: Executive Director  
(if different than above)

Phone: same as above E-Mail: rachel@projectlibertad.org  
(if different than above)

IRS 501(c)(3) Nonprofit?

- ☒ Yes (Please attach IRS designation letter)  
☐ No (Please attach written agreement from the fiscal agent)

Federal ID # 81-0747522

Type of Grant Requested:

Capital

General Operating Support

Program/Project

**X Capacity Building**

Name of Program/Project/Campaign: Fearless Communicators: Your Impact Story  
Crash Course Workshop for Project Libertad Board and Staff

Amount Requested: \$11,400 Application Deadline: n/a  
(if applicable)

Total Program/Project Budget: \$11,400

Duration of grant requested: one year

Total Organizational Budget for 1 year: \$370,000 Fiscal Year End: December 31

**State your organization's mission:**

Project Libertad empowers newcomer immigrant youth and their families by providing essential, youth-led and youth-centered legal and social services. Project Libertad envisions a world where all newcomer immigrant youth have access to the legal services, social services, academic support, and leadership opportunities needed to thrive.

**Summarize the proposal and how it fits with the funder's mission and grantmaking priorities:**

*Project Libertad: Empowering Newcomer Immigrant Youth*

Project Libertad requests \$20,000 in general operating funds to support its work with newcomer immigrant youth in Chester County.

Lia, a 12-year-old asylum seeker, fled Honduras after being abused by her father. Despite seeking safety in the US, Lia faced deportation proceedings without a lawyer or essential social services. Her story is heartbreaking, yet typical of the 24,000 children in deportation proceedings in the region, with 75% lacking legal representation. 90% of children will be ordered deported without a lawyer, while those with representation are seven times more likely to remain in the US.

Project Libertad addresses this critical gap by providing youth-led and youth-centered legal and social services, including:

- Legal representation
- Social services
- Academic support
- Leadership opportunities

Our services empower newcomer immigrant youth to thrive, addressing the dire consequences of unmet needs, including mental health challenges, academic struggles, and deportation. Funding will support and expand our services, furthering our vision of a world where all newcomer immigrant youth have access to essential resources.

**List of largest funders in the last fiscal year and grant amount.**

1. Montgomery County Recovery Office: \$82,900
2. Comcast NBCUniversal Local Impact Grant: \$45,000
3. Welfare Foundation: \$40,000

**List the proposal's target population, constituents, and geographic communities:**

Project Libertad serves newcomer immigrant youth in the Greater Philadelphia Area. While 95% of the youth served by Project Libertad are Central American refugees from the Northern Triangle Countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, Project Libertad has a global footprint, welcoming youth from across the globe, including Angola, the DRC, Haiti, Brazil, Vietnam, China, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Bangladesh, and more. Project Libertad provides social services primarily in Chester, Bucks, and Montgomery counties, and legal services to youth across PA. Community strengths that further Project Libertad's work with immigrant youth include resiliency, perseverance, optimism, adaptability, tenacity, and gratitude.

**AGREEMENT**

*I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that all information included in this proposal is correct. The tax-exempt status of this organization is still in effect. If a grant is awarded to this organization, the proceeds of that grant will not be distributed or used to benefit any organization or individual supporting or engaged in unlawful activities.*



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Signature of Executive Director

Date: Sept. 10, 2025

**Current Programs and Services include:**

- **Immigrant Children's Defense Project:** Provides legal representation to immigrant children who are undocumented or facing deportation.
- **Know Your Rights Project:** Educates immigrant youth and families about their legal rights.

- **Legal-Mental Health Partnership:** Partnership with Immigrant Psychology Network that educates youth about mental health and wellness. Increases access to mental health care for immigrant youth.
- **Conexiones Therapy Program:** Provides free, bilingual individual therapy sessions to immigrant youth.
- **Juntos para Jóvenes: United for Youth:** Provides direct case management services to newcomer immigrant youth and their families who are experiencing barriers to their self-sufficiency, in order to meet a variety of their basic needs.
- **Tutoring Program:** Designed to support the unique needs of high school aged English learners.
- **Newcomer Support Programs:** Weekly, in-school programs that provide a safe space for newcomer immigrant youth to create community and achieve a sense of safety as they adjust to life in the United States.
- **Mentoring Program:** Provides one-on-one mentorship to middle and high school students in order to promote academic success and improve postsecondary outcomes for newcomer youth.
- **RISE: Refugee and Immigrant Students Excelling:** Girls' empowerment program that provides high school refugee and immigrant girls with leadership skills, academic support, college preparation, and other life skills.
- **Educator Training Program:** Trains educators and other professionals on best practices for supporting immigrant youth.
- **Scholarship Fund:** Benefits a graduating Project Libertad senior annually.

### **National and International Recognition for Project Libertad**

- 2024 [Top 5 CNN Heroes](#) Honor for Executive Director Rachel Rutter
- 2024 [Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation's 2024 Local Impact Grant](#) Recipient
- 2024 [Drexel University 40 Under 40 Honor](#) for Executive Director Rachel Rutter for her work with Project Libertad

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- 2023 feature in [Gettysburg College Magazine, A Steadfast Spirit: Turning Advocacy Into Action](#)
- 2022 L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth Honoree, with a short [documentary produced by HBO Max](#)
- 2021 Aerie #AerieREAL Changemaker, as featured in [Forbes](#)
- 2021 and 2020 [Sony Music Global Social Justice Fund](#)