



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.

Fund for Chester County Capacity Building Grants (Due 8/10)

For eligibility in this grant program, nonprofits must be **located in & serve only 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

- 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.

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: September 9, 2025

Contact Information

Organization Name: Half a Millions Kids

Address: 944 Providence Road

Phone: 484-994-8408

Website: halfamillionkids.org

Year Incorporated: 2015

FEIN: 81-0705219

development@halfamillionkids.org

ED/CEO Name: Leah Stauffer

ED/CEO E-mail: leah@halfamillionkids.org

Board Chair Name: Leah Stauffer

Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒

Primary Contact Name: Lisa MacDonald

Primary Contact E-mail:

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest: ☒ Human Services

Mission:

The mission of Half a Million Kids (HMK) is to place every child eligible for adoption into a safe, permanent, loving home through our results-based 3-Phase Plan.

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

All of Chester County

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

There are approximately 2200 Foster Youth available for adoption, meaning their parental rights have been waived, in our region of support.

Annual Budget \$580,000

65% of budget for program expenses

6% of budget for administrative expenses

29% of budget for fundraising expenses

100 % total

2_ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

5_ # of Board Volunteers

4_ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

30+ # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Costco, Chase Lenfest Foundation, Wawa, M&T Bank, Private Donors

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building 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: \$ 4500

Proposal Summary:

During recent discussions with Child Welfare leaders in Chester County, a pressing need was identified: housing for single expectant mothers, to include those with histories in foster care. Your support will enable us to step up to the plate to address this vital need. We will hire a consultant to conduct a Needs Assessment to fully determine the number and range of housing that is needed to protect and provide support for unwed, expectant mothers in Chester County as well as a plan to ensure its availability moving forward.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

Born into the foster care system and adopted by amazing parents at 4 months old, our Founder Leah, is keenly aware that the trajectory of her life could have gone quite differently. She could have easily become a statistic. Her passion for foster children based on her lived experience, inspired her to establish Half a Million Kids 501c3 in 2015. However, she has been part of the foster community for much longer, assisting agencies in providing merchandise and tickets for activities and concerts for foster kids. In 2020, she started building a team of volunteers to help forward our mission as we awaited funding. During this time, we have established partnerships with agencies, local and state governments and other stakeholders who collaborate with us to reach our mission.

Our overarching goal and vision is a world where all children have a loving family and are safe. Foster children are historically underserved and lost in the system facing a multitude of challenges compared to the general population, such as PTSD, abuse, neglect, teen pregnancy, overprescribed medications, incarceration, homelessness, substance abuse problems and being sex trafficked. Getting the children eligible for adoption into loving homes can positively change the trajectory of their lives, both individually and generationally, impact the lives of the families that adopt them and improve society as a whole by decreasing the impact and cost to society. When foster children are adopted, they have the opportunity to thrive, mentally, physically, emotionally and increase the opportunities for their future including good health and mental health care, enrolling in a better school system, going to college or other trade school, getting married and having a family and creating new generational opportunities for their children. We see a world where children are safe and happy with opportunities for a bright future, where they are loved and supported in a forever family.

We have already reached key achievements with our charity. HMK has been able to make multiple connections to collaborate with organizations with shared values and missions to help foster children. First, we are currently collaborating with a Tech Company that has a functioning matching tech in other states getting great results. We are in conversation with the state of Pennsylvania to adopt and implement their tech while we also develop our own Matching Tech 2.0 as an additional resource. Next, we are running our Bridge Program, assisting families through the complex adoption process. In addition, we have identified a House Parent Model in Montgomery County that has been acknowledged by the Governor of Pennsylvania as well as has been featured nationally and have partnered with them to begin our Phase 3; Revolutionizing the Group Home. We have begun the process of scaling their model with more homes in Montgomery, yet also helping them expand into other counties, particularly in Chester County. We have engaged real estate investors that are interested in our mission and expanding these homes for foster kids.

Half a Million Kids is distinct from other organizations because we provide a very collaborative spirit of Collective Impact. The importance of working with other organizations leads to bigger success. Many organizations provide similar services yet they all work in silos. Our approach is actually one of connectedness by not only bringing organizations with shared missions into our orbit, it is also about connecting those organizations with each other. This has led to multiple partnerships that are working for the good of foster children in Pennsylvania.

2. Funding request:

Description of key initiatives

To ensure this initiative is built on accurate data and community input, HMK proposes to:

- Key Initiative # 1: Identify the number of single, expectant mothers in Chester County who are in need of safe housing.
- Key Initiative # 2: Determine how many of these mothers have prior foster care involvement.
- Key Initiative # 3: Assess the specific supports needed for long-term stability, such as access to healthcare, education, childcare, and workforce development.
- Key Initiative #4: Provide cost projections and recommendations for establishing and operating a dedicated home in Chester County.

3. Specific needs & issues to be addressed:

Housing needs in Chester County for single expectant mothers. What we know currently is that according to the CDC – Stats by States that in 2023 - 38.8% of live births were to unmarried women in Pennsylvania (with 9.8 % , per 1,000) being teens 15-19 years of age.

4. Why it is important to fund this now: immediate need:

Currently women are being referred to a specialized home in Lancaster County.

5. Project Outcomes:

A full detailed report that presents the housing demand for single, expectant mothers in Chester County that includes:

- A cost-effective and sustainable model for housing and support.
- A roadmap for expanding the House Parent Model to Chester County to directly positively impact young mothers and their children.

Conclusion: By supporting this project, the Chester County Foundation will play a vital role in addressing a critical gap in services, ensuring that vulnerable mothers and their children have the opportunity to thrive in a safe and supportive environment. HMK is committed to transparency, collaboration, and measurable outcomes, and we are eager to work alongside Chester County to make this vision a reality.

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)

Note: Once approved we will seek a consultant to assist with research.

6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.

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Please contact Grants Administrator Kevin Baffa at
(610) 696-8211 grants@chescocf.org with questions.



WHAT IS CAPACITY BUILDING?

Capacity building helps bring a nonprofit to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity, in order to more effectively & efficiently fulfill its mission.

Capacity building may include (but is not limited to) projects which address:



MISSION, VISION & STRATEGY

Organizational Assessment - Strategic Planning - Financial Planning



GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

Board Development - Executive Transition/Succession Planning - Leadership Development - Staff Training & Professional Development



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Coalition Building – Collaboration - Mergers & Acquisitions - Strategic Restructuring



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING

Major Gift Donor Identification, Cultivation, Development & Stewardship - Development Campaigns (Annual, Capital, Planned Giving) - Earned Income Development - Social Enterprise Feasibility & Development - Marketing, Branding & Communications



TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Business Continuity Planning - Financial Management - Human Resources - Volunteer Management - Industry Certification - Risk Management - Technology Improvements

