

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 **\$1,000-\$7,500**.

Fund for Chester County Capacity Building Grants (Due 9/10)

- ◇ 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
- ◇ Proposals submitted between **July 1 - Sept. 10** are eligible for consideration.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$1,000-\$5,000**.

- 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: September 23, 2025

Contact Information

Contact Information

Organization Name: Kennett After-School Association

Address: PO Box 1068, Kennett Sq., PA 19348

Phone: 610-268-5889

Website: www.afterthebell.org

Year Incorporated: 1998

FEIN: 23-2984132

ED/CEO Name: Paola Rosas

ED/CEO E-mail: afterthebell@kcsd.org

Board Chair Name: Dr. Rudy Karkosak

Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒

Primary Contact Name: Paola Rosas

Primary Contact E-mail: Same

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

✓ Arts, Culture & Humanities ✓ Environment/Animal Welfare ✓ Education

___ Health ___ Human Services ___ Religion

Mission:

Mission: *After-The-Bell provides a supervised after-school program of recreational, social, and academic skill-developing activities for Kennett Middle School students. The program is led by community volunteers and provided without charge.*

Geographic Area Served: All students attend middle school in the Kennett Consolidated School District, which includes the communities of Kennett Square Borough, Kennett Township, New Garden, and a portion of East Marlborough. While the majority of students attend Kennett Middle School, the program is available to students who reside in the district and are home-schooled or attend charter schools.

Annual Budget: \$237,872.91

76 % of budget for program expenses

7.5 % of budget for administrative expenses

16.5 % of budget for fundraising expenses

100 % total

2.5 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

15 # of Board Volunteers

116 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

2784 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources:

The top grant awards we received in our 2024-25 Fiscal Year:

Applestone Foundation - \$28,000

United Way of Southern Chester County - \$19,540

Longwood Foundation - \$17,500

CCRES - \$7,000

Kennett Rotary Foundation - \$7,000

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: \$15,000

Proposal Summary:

After-The-Bell is a community-based after-school program that may be relatively small in size, but we feel our impact on the students we serve is enormous. The support of many of the donor-advised funders of the Chester County Community Foundation has played a significant role in our success during the 27 years that we have been in operation. We believe these funders recognize that their support can change the lives of local children, and, thanks in large part to your support, we have made a difference in the lives of more than 7,700 adolescent students since we opened our doors in 1999.

Each year, we serve 300-350 students. In requesting these funds, we renew our commitment to provide all of our students with safe, meaningful, and fun after-school activities, offered at no cost to students. Funds from the donor-advised funders of the Chester County Community Foundation help us to pay for supplies and activity fees; transportation to off-site activities and a bus ride home each day; healthy snacks for our hungry students and volunteers; support of specific programs in the arts, the sciences, and other enriching genres; and the necessary administrative support to run a well-managed, eclectic, and rewarding program for middle school students who reside in the Kennett Consolidated School District.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

History – KASA was founded in 1998 by a small group of committed individuals associated with the Episcopal Church of the Advent in Kennett Square. They created After-The-Bell to address the problem of adolescent students in the area who were home alone after school and were at risk of engaging in inappropriate behaviors or being exploited by those who sought to take advantage of their vulnerability.

After-The-Bell first opened in January 1999 and today has served almost 7,800 students with safe, meaningful and fun after-school activities that have been facilitated over the years by hundreds of dedicated volunteers who share their time and expertise with our students.

Our founders directed that the program be provided at no cost to families and at no cost to taxpayers. All expenses for the program are paid through foundation grants and private donations from individuals and corporations. While the program receives no funding from KCSD, the district provides the use of Kennett Middle School to run the program in the after-school hours.

The program is under the leadership of an Executive Director who works with our dedicated Board of Directors to ensure that all students are well cared for, robust activities are provided, and funds are available to sustain the program for many years to come. In keeping with the vision of our founders, all of the activities we offer are facilitated by volunteers who donate their time and share their passions with our students.

Goals – In addition to our top priority of keeping students safe and engaged in meaningful activities each year, the following are key goals approved by our Board of Directors for 2025-26:

- The newly formed Student Support Committee of the Board will work with the Executive Director to create and enhance activities designed to support the academic achievement of our students.
- We will reestablish a Fundraising Committee and identify a current board member or experienced and supportive community member to chair this committee. The purpose will be to enhance our fundraising capabilities, seek new forums to attract financial support, and to reduce the amount of time that the executive director currently spends on fundraising.
- We will work with other area not-for-profits to consider ways to pool resources in our efforts to attract more volunteers, and we will enhance our outreach to school parents and other potential sources of volunteers. We will also seek to upgrade our volunteer training and orientation.

Key Achievements –

- In July, we published the *After-The-Bell Strategic Plan for 2025-2030*, which can be accessed on our website at https://www.afterthebell.org/files/ugd/a18b42_b3e699a4c60e43528362c14f85f5c9bc.pdf. The 29-page plan provides an in-depth review of both the accomplishments we have realized and the challenges we are facing as we seek to further grow After-The-Bell and enhance its benefits and relevance to students in the coming years. The plan includes 31 action items in the areas of Meeting the Needs of Adolescent Students, Program Enhancements, Volunteer Commitment, Program Leadership, Community Connections, and Financial Preparedness. These items will be reviewed by the board each year to determine compliance.

- During our 2024-25 Program Year, we served a population of 293 students, representing 32% of all Kennett Middle School students. We offered 55 unique activities, including 16 new activities, in 162 individual sessions. New activities last year encompassed the areas of science, animal care, technology, the arts, nature, sports, and academic enhancement.
- We hosted our annual spring fundraiser, which we called *Discover Your Destiny*, at the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science. Between tastings of delicious food and libations, guests had the chance to explore animal habitats, learn about local flora and fauna, and meet exotic creatures brought to the event. The event raised approximately \$27,000 and was one of the most successful fundraisers in our history.

Distinctiveness – Our program emphasizes the safety of our students in ways that are unique from many other after-school programs. After-The-Bell is not designed as a drop-in program, but instead requires students (with the involvement of parents and guardians) to sign up for specific activities each cycle.

Attendance is taken when students first arrive in the Kennett Middle School cafeteria and again at the beginning of each activity. If a student is absent from the program without notice, we contact the parents or guardians to ensure that the student is safe and accounted for.

A priority for the organization is to introduce our adolescent students to new skills and interests that could become potential career trajectories. These career trajectories have included computer coding, aviation, engineering, environmental conservation, and veterinary medicine.

Activities are offered in three six-week cycles in the fall, winter, and spring, and are aligned with the school calendar. Prior to each cycle, students sign up for activities that will occur on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Students can choose to attend one, two or all three days each week. Each activity takes place once a week for the six-week cycle.

The majority of activities take place at Kennett Middle School. We are also grateful to some of our wonderful community partners who invite our students to travel to their locations for memorable activities. These partners have included the Delaware Nature Society, the Stroud Water Research Center, New Garden Airport, the Kennett Library, the Kennett YMCA, Kids First Swim, and the Kennett Golf & Country Club.

2. Funding request

Description of key initiatives – In the coming year, we are seeking funding to support many popular returning activities, as well as a host of new activities, created with the help of our amazing volunteers and community partners. The following are new activities we began offering to students this fall:

- ***4-H Making the Cut*** – Students learn basic woodworking skills and complete projects that involve measuring, cutting, sanding, using hand and power tools, applying finish, and painting.
- ***Explore KMS Ecosystem*** – Through a partnership with the Red Clay Alliance, students will create art inspired by nature. They will also learn about the natural environment surrounding Kennett Middle School, including bird and animal habitats, water resources and all manner of flora and fauna.
- ***Fuel Up Challenge*** – In this challenge, students play games, do taste tests, and bust some food myths while building meals that keep them powered up all day.
- ***Munchies & Math*** – As part of our commitment to support our students' academic success, this activity was created to help students better understand math in an environment that is both fun and delicious. Facilitated by a former math teacher, the activity is designed to help students improve their math grades while having fun—and snacks—with their friends.

- **Mix Media Match Up** – Students have the opportunity to experiment, explore, and express themselves by diving into the world of mixed media artistic expression. Students tackle projects that mix and match different art techniques, helping them build skills while making one-of-a-kind masterpieces.
- **Photography, Writing and Personal Storytelling** – Students spend time with a local photo journalist and learn to tell unique stories through the use of words and pictures.
- **Ready, Set, Print!** – In this hands-on class, students learn how to turn their designs into art using all kinds of awesome techniques — from foam plates and linoleum carving to the magical blue world of cyanotype prints.
- **Sketch Studio** – Students design, build, and bind their very own sketchbooks, and then fill them with unique drawings and other artwork while utilizing creative prompts and new artistic techniques. Students are encouraged to explore their creativity to experiment, brainstorm, and plan future masterpieces.

The following are just some of the returning favorites we are offering this year:

- **4-H Pony Partners** – Young people interested in horses spend time immersing themselves in the care and lifestyles of these beautiful creatures. They also have the opportunity to feed and help groom miniature horses brought to Kennett Middle School.
- **Bowling** – Bowling is back, and our students could not be more excited! Bowling had not been offered in recent years due to transportation issues, which have now been resolved, and our students are excited to be traveling to Timber Wolfe Lanes in Oxford to bowl for strikes, spares and personal glory.
- **Nature Awaits at Longwood Gardens** – Students will explore a different area of Longwood Gardens each week. They will spend time in the new West Conservatory, the Bonsai Courtyard, and the Water Lily Courtyard, checking out amazing plants and trees growing in the gardens!

Specific needs and issues to be addressed – In order to fulfill our founders’ mission that the program be provided at no cost to families and at no cost to taxpayers, all general operating costs are paid for through the kindness and support of foundations, area businesses, and individuals. Such costs represent our greatest need, and (as described in our Proposal Summary) include supplies, activity fees, transportation, healthy snacks, and administrative costs. We are grateful to the donor-advised funders of the Chester County Community Foundation who provide grants to help us offset our general operating costs. At the same time, we recognize the interest of funders who seek to support activities within specific genres and are proud that we are able to provide our students with a robust selection of activities in the arts, STEM, cooking, sports, community service, animal care, nature, and many more. The specific help with the funding of these activities is greatly appreciated.

Why it is important to fund this now – For more than a quarter century, After-The-Bell has been a safe haven for middle school students to have fun with friends after school, while learning new skills and discovering new passions. Many people in the Kennett Square area are facing difficult times right now, and we feel that continuing to offer a welcoming and nurturing environment for adolescent students is more important than ever. There is no question that our work has become more challenging. As some students have expressed concerns about social and political issues that may be impacting their families, we assure them that After-The-Bell remains a place where they can experience a little joy and camaraderie, without fear or stress.

While we have never requested or received government funding for After-The-Bell, we know that many of our neighboring organizations are experiencing the loss of government funding. This certainly places additional burdens on the generous private funders that have supported organizations like After-The-Bell. Our joint resolve will help us to face these challenges as a community while we ensure that the families we serve will know that we will continue to meet their needs.

How impact and results will be demonstrated – It is important to seek feedback from our students to assess the popularity and relevance of After-The-Bell and, therefore, at the end of each cycle, students fill out satisfaction surveys. The following are the average satisfaction percentages we have seen in recent years:

- 94% of students said they had a positive experience at After-The-Bell.
- 92% of students said they found ATB to be a place of respect for self and others.
- 93% of students found our volunteers to be kind and caring.
- 91% of students found ATB to be a safe place, free from bullies.
- 80% of participants said they had learned a new skill or developed a new interest.
- 79% of participants said ATB helped them to become better students.

The following are some of the comments students shared with us in the last year:

- *After-The-Bell is really fun, cool, and exciting from all the activities you can choose from! I liked meeting new people and overall this was a good experience.*
- *After-The-Bell makes me so happy and I hope to do it again.*
- *I think is very fun and provides experience for the future.*
- *I love after the bell it makes me feel calm and happy. My favorite activities were loom knitting and kitchen chemistry.*
- *It makes me happy to hang out with new and old friends.*
- *I really enjoyed how supported I felt.*

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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so their legacies make a difference.*



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