



I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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Date 10/24/25

Contact Information

Organization Name: Eastern PA Trans Equity Project
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Allentown, PA 18104
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Website: <https://www.patransequity.org/>
Year Incorporated: 2019
FEIN: 84-3324666

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Board Chair Name: Corinne Goodwin
Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒
Primary Contact Name: Robin Gow
Primary Contact E-mail: Development@PATransEquity.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

☐	Arts, Culture, Heritage	☐	Education, Library	☐	Environment, Animals
☐	Health	☒	Human Services	☐	Social Justice, Civic Engagement
☐	Religion	☐	If other, please describe:		

Mission:

Eastern PA Trans Equity Project's (EPTEP) Mission is to Empower Transgender People while Building Community. Working across 42 underserved rural, exurban, and suburban Pennsylvania counties including Chester County.

We provide meaningful Supportive Services, Advocacy, Assistance Programs, Empowerment Programs, and Educational Opportunities, that help transgender people to not only survive, but to thrive.

We serve over 6,000 people annually with programming that has a deep, positive, and affirming impact on the lives of transgender Pennsylvanians.

Our programming includes:

- Supportive Services: 21 Peer-led Community Groups, Info/Referral Line, Mentoring and Case Management to help people obtain the resources they need.
- Basic Needs Assistance: Rent, Food, Utilities, Transportation, and Medicines to help people maintain their ability to go to work or school
- Legal Name Change Assistance: To help people obtain legal ID and recognition of their chosen name under law
- Empowerment Programs: Workforce Development Education, Safety Training and Scholarships designed to help transgender people obtain the tools they need to thrive in the long term
- Education and Training: for Medical Providers, Social Service Agencies, Companies, and Government Agencies so they can provide culturally competent services to the transgender community.
- Advocacy & Action: Activating the LGBTQ+ community to work across all levels of government to ensure their rights are protected, legislative action, and work on behalf of individuals facing discrimination

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

42 Counties in eastern and central Pennsylvania. This includes all of Chester County

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served. (Include Chester County # &/or % served.)

Poverty and a lack of economic opportunity for transgender people are significant issues across Pennsylvania. These issues are further exacerbated in the suburban and rural areas of the state where there are fewer services available to transgender individuals. That is where EPTEP comes in.

- According to the 2022 Pennsylvania LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment, up to 50% of trans folk in our service area have experienced homelessness, up to 53% have food insecurity, and up to 46% live below either the poverty line or the ALICE (Asset limited, income constrained, employed) line. These numbers are almost double the national average for the transgender community.
- According to the 2022 National Trans Survey, transgender people are unemployed at a rate up to 5x the national average. When they are employed, they experience rates of harassment that are 3x the national average. The same study indicated that 48% of transgender patients have had negative experiences in healthcare settings and that 81% did not have all of their legal ID match their gender identity.
- A 2020 study from the Williams Institute indicates that transgender people are 4x as likely to be physically assaulted and FBI hate crime statistics indicate that 67% of all LGBTQ hate crimes are perpetrated against transgender women.
- A study from GLSEN indicates that transgender high school students are 34% less likely to pursue education beyond high school.

Because of these issues, members of the transgender community have a low level of trust in traditional service providers and social safety net agencies. EPTEP is the bridge that can provide them - not only with immediate assistance – but with the trusted referrals, connections, and case management that they need so they have the opportunity to lead productive and healthy lives.

We serve over 6,000 people annually. Through the first three quarters of 2025 we have provided services to 338 Chester county residents. We expect this number to increase significantly in 2026.

Annual Budget \$__329,410__	__2.5__ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
__74__ % of budget for program expenses	__12__ # of Board Volunteers
__25__ % of budget for administrative expenses	__40__ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
__1__ % of budget for fundraising expenses	__528__ # of Volunteer Hours

100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

- Leonard-Litz LGBTQ Foundation: \$25,000
- Gender Justice Fund (Funds restricted to Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, Chester Counties): \$18,000
- PNC Charitable Trust: \$12,500

- United Way Lehigh Valley (funds restricted to use in Lehigh Northampton, and Carbon Counties)
\$10,000
- Novus Foundation: \$10,000

This grant proposal is for: ☒ Direct Service Programs & General Operating &/or ☐ Capacity Building

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

☐	Contingency Planning	☐	Partnerships, Collaborations	☐	Merger, Closure
☐	Mission, Vision, Strategy	☐	Board Engagement & Leadership	☐	Marketing, Communication
☐	Resource Development	☐	Operations	☐	Technology
☐	If other, please describe:				

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 10,000

Proposal Summary: *(a few sentences, please)*

EPTEP is respectfully requesting a \$10,000 grant to assist in covering the costs associated with our Supportive Services, Basic Needs Assistance, and Empowerment Programs which are designed to give transgender and gender-expansive people the support they need to secure a future where they can develop their skills, secure stable housing and employment, and contribute back to their communities as fully integrated members of society.

Funds from this grant will be reserved for use in Chester County Only.

II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information in 1-3 pages. Please be brief.

About Eastern PA Trans Equity Project (EPTEP)

Eastern PA Trans Equity Project's Mission is to Empower Transgender People while Building Community. Working across 42 underserved rural, exurban, and suburban Pennsylvania counties including Chester County. We provide meaningful Supportive Services, Advocacy, Assistance Programs, Empowerment Programs, and Educational Opportunities, that help transgender people to not only survive, but to thrive. We serve over 6,000 people annually with programming that has a deep, positive, and affirming impact on the lives of transgender Pennsylvanians.

We are the only transgender-led organization providing our level of services in Chester County. We regularly receive referrals from Chester County based organizations including the LGBTQ Alliance of Chester County, West Chester University, United Way, PA 211, and more.

Supportive Services, Legal Name Change, and Empowerment Programs:

EPTEP's Supportive Services, Basic Needs, and Empowerment Programs help transgender individuals overcome many of the obstacles they face. Providing financial assistance, scholarships, mentoring, referrals and/or case management. They include:

- Housing and Rental Assistance: Housing insecurity is a significant issue for transgender people and we know that once a person becomes unhoused the likely hood for their achieving success decreases significantly. EPTEP will pay rent and/or a security deposit to a landlord on behalf of a transgender person/parent of a transgender child in need so that they can remain securely housed and focused on school and work.
- Legal Name Change Assistance: We provide mentoring and financial assistance with completing legal name changes and the procurement of legal ID that aligns with their gender so that they can apply for work and access services without being outed as a transgender person.
- Basic Needs Assistance: EPTEP distributes small grants or financial vouchers to transgender people and families of transgender children helping them to purchase household groceries, personal care items, clothing, address critical vehicle repairs, pay their utility bills, or afford transition-related prescription medication so that they can go to work or school.
- Workforce Development and Education Programs: Launched in 2024, EPTEP is partners with major employers to ensure transgender people have an opportunity to gain quality employment while learning the critical employment and life skills. Cohort members receive free skills training to help them secure employment, mentorship for a period of one year after employment, and retention bonuses to build resilience.
- Scholarship Programs: Educational and conference scholarships that are designed to help transgender people secure good jobs and connect with the legal and medical services they need to be successful.
- Personal Protection Training: Transgender people – especially transgender women are subject to extreme levels of violent and assault. Each year we conduct personal safety workshops to teach them

how to avoid or navigate dangerous situation while distributing personal protection kits that include personal alarms, flashlights, whistles, and other items.

- Peer Support Groups: We provide peer support services through twenty-one (21) support groups that meet in-person, virtually and online. We are launching a new group in Chester County (Exton) effective December, 2025.
- Infoline: We provide access and referrals to trans-affirming services to gender-diverse people seeking resources.

Our Results:

Over the past four (4) years we have:

- Provided over \$570,000 in direct financial assistance to transgender people in need.
- Assisted 1,463 people with legal name changes.
- Kept 191 people in secure housing.
- Provided food assistance equivalent to over 7,500 meals.
- Supplied 327 people with gender-affirming clothing.
- Helped 243 individuals with utilities, medication, transportation and other basic needs.
- Awarded 36 people with college scholarships.
- Helped 41 people attend the Keystone Gender Diversity Conference at no cost.
- Served over 7,900 visitors to our peer-led support groups.
- Answered over 5,600 inquiries for services and referrals through our Infoline.

Program Evaluation

EPTEP's Supportive Services, Basic Needs Assistance, and Empowerment Programs are evaluated on a qualitative and quantitative basis.

We track all clients' demographic information including age, gender identity, county of residence and race. Additionally, we track the success rate of our clients based on program metrics such as successful completion of legal name changes or success at remaining housed/employed.

- Legal Name Change clients receive ongoing mentoring throughout the name and legal ID change process which includes initial training/mentoring and email or phone check-ins every 30 days.
- Rent Assistance clients receive ongoing follow-up at 30, 60, and 90 day intervals to ensure they remain housed and are connected to additional services.
- All clients are invited to participate in an annual blind survey where they can give frank feedback on our programming.
- We have a Community Advisory Board that meets twice-yearly to provide feedback and input on programming.

Below are some examples of verbatim feedback we have gotten from clients:

- "Thank you for helping me, regain independence." – Rent Assistance client
- "I want to thank you so much! I really appreciate the organizations help! Words have to expression on the way this has helped me. My son and I both are truly grateful." – Name Change client
- "Thank you so, so incredibly much! This means the world to me, and I can't even put into words how much this will help. Thank you guys for everything you do!" – Utility Assistance Client

- “Thank you so much! Your help came so fast that I instantly started crying and I can’t stop. I appreciate everything this program has done for me... your help has been amazing. I must’ve done something right in the world to deserve this kindness.” – Rent Assistance client
- “I just finished going through the court process and finally got my driver's license with my true name and gender, and I'm looking forward to receiving my birth certificate and social security card in the mail! I can't stress enough how much you helped me. Thank you!!! – Name Change Client
- Thank you so much, for the grant. It allowed me to pay for my meds and bloodwork. You have no idea how much weight that has lifted off of me. – Mutual Aid Client
- Thank you so much I appreciate you. You are an angel – Food Assistance Client

Our Request

EPTEP is respectfully requesting a \$10,000 grant to assist in covering the costs associated with our Supportive Services, Basic Needs Assistance, and Empowerment Programs which are designed to give transgender and gender-expansive people the support they need to secure a future where they can develop their skills, secure stable housing and employment, and contribute back to their communities as fully integrated members of society.