



I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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Date: 11/6/25

Contact Information

Organization Name: Family Promise of Southern Chester County ED/CEO Name: Carol M. Lowe
Address: 1156 W. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Sq., PA 19348 ED/CEO E-mail: ed@familypromisescc.org
Phone: 610-444-0400 Board Chair Name: Tom Sausen
Website: www.familypromisescc.org Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒
Year Incorporated: 2015 Primary Contact Name: Carol M. Lowe
FEIN: 35-2518819 Primary Contact E-mail: ed@familypromisescc.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: Family Promise of Southern Chester County prevents and ends homelessness and housing insecurity for families with children and helps them achieve sustainable independence through community-based collaboration. Our vision is for every family to have a place to call home and the means to build a better future for themselves and their community.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): FPSCC serves families residing within the four southern Chester County school districts: Kennett Consolidated, Avon Grove, Oxford Area, and Unionville-Chadds Ford.

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

In 2024, Family Service of Southern Chester County served 90 families and more than 300 unduplicated people. Over the year, 13 families/47 individuals resided in our Promise House units. The remainder of those served received case management to prevent homelessness and build family strength and resilience. About 70% of the individuals served are children. Of families who disclosed their ethnic identification, about half were non-Hispanic Black, 30% were non-Hispanic White, 10% were Hispanic, and the remainder identified as Asian, biracial, or other. About 80% of families were led by single parents.

Annual Budget \$ <u>609,503</u>	<u>3.0</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>84</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>14</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>11</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>200</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>5</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>500</u> # of Volunteer Hours

100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

PHARE, \$100,000

Link Logistics, \$75,000

DCED Community & Economic Assistance Program, \$50,000

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: \$ 5,000

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

Family Promise of Southern Chester County is requesting general operating support for all of our programs to prevent homelessness and improve family stability. Our work focuses on families with school-age children and their housing needs, helping families avoid eviction and homelessness whenever possible, and helping them to identify, move into, and sustain affordable housing when necessary with short-term emergency support, medium-term shelter, and long-term case management. In the current environment of housing shortages, rising costs for basic needs, and cuts to social programs, our work is more needed than ever.

II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

1. Nonprofit's overall aims, key initiatives, key achievements & distinctiveness

Family Promise of Southern Chester County (FPSCC) was founded in 2015 with the purpose of supporting families with children who are facing homelessness, helping them attain sustainable housing and stability. Our mission is fueled by the growing concerns of family homelessness.

In 2022, following a disruptive pandemic and a change in internal leadership, Family Promise transitioned from a model in which families were housed in the evening at local churches to a model in which we maintain rental units (six at this time) where families live while they receive comprehensive case management services and gain strength to transition to housing independence. We operate the only emergency shelter program for families in southern Chester County, an essential function in a community in which housing costs have risen out of reach for many of our lower-income neighbors.

As inflation rises and housing becomes increasingly unaffordable for many we serve, we expect to see continued growth in the need for housing assistance. For some families, we can provide shelter (our Promise House units) as well as intensive case management. For others, we can provide short-term support to avoid homelessness along with case management to help each household improve their financial stability. In 2025, we received funding from PHARE to help us launch a Mentoring Program that will leverage our passionate base of volunteers (including bilingual volunteers) to provide more support and guidance to families on their journeys to self-sufficiency.

2. Funding request

- **What specific needs & issues are being addressed, via what programs and services?**
- **Why is it important to fund this now?**
- **How will results & impact be demonstrated?**

The work of Family Promise includes three main components, which we employ separately or together depending upon each family's needs:

Diversion (Promise Made): Aims to prevent families from entering shelter by providing immediate financial assistance and support services to resolve housing crises and maintain stable housing.

Promise House: Offers shelter and case management services for families experiencing homelessness for up to 120 days in an apartment-like setting, focusing on providing a safe and supportive environment while helping them transition to stable housing. This program offers the region's only emergency shelter for families. At this time, we are able to offer Promise House locations to up to eight families at a time, a service for which we always have a waiting list.

Stabilization (Promise Kept): Provides ongoing support to families up to one year after securing housing to ensure long-term stability and prevent future crises and incidences of homelessness.

The need for intensive support for families in difficult financial circumstances has become increasingly pressing over the past few years, as the pandemic, rising inflation and very high food and housing costs have pushed lower-income households to their financial limits. We are proud to have the Promise House program, southern Chester County's only shelter for families, to provide safe housing for families at risk. However, we have room for just eight families at any given time in Promise House units (two of our six Promise House units are large enough to comfortably house two families at a time). The Promise Houses are typically at full capacity, and we have a waiting list of about ten families at any given time.

For other families, we provide intensive case management and support to help them strengthen their economic circumstances over time so that they will not become homeless. At the same time, we work to support each family member so that they are able to continue normally at work or in school, keeping their life trajectories and futures on track despite the housing challenges they face. Even after Promise House families "graduate" into permanent housing, we continue to provide case management support to help them build their stability over time to prevent future financial or housing crises.

Other comparable housing organizations have successfully utilized a volunteer-based mentor-mentee model to provide long-term practical, knowledgeable and moral support for families working to rise out of poverty. Family Promise has developed a plan for a pilot program which would build this mentoring model at our organization, empowering us to provide more support for our Promise House families and also meaningful support for the many families we help each year who will not reside in Promise Houses. We were fortunate to receive funding from the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability Fund (PHARE program) that will support the launch of our mentoring program.

FPSCC's Mentoring Program will be a self-paced, four-week program incorporating relational mentoring, trauma-informed practice, boundaries, goal-setting, and bias awareness, with worksheets and journaling prompts. We are working on an operational manual for the nascent program, to including onboarding for both participants and volunteers, background checks/clearances, training and matching of volunteer-participant teams. Evaluation for the program will include pre- and post-participation self-assessments, attainment of goals, and monthly check-ins aligned with our case management. We view the Mentoring Program as an enhanced part of our Promise Kept ongoing support component.

Housing shortages and high inflation are only two of the current factors negatively impacting the households we serve. Federal cuts to USDA food programs, SNAP and Medicaid are likely to increase household costs for the lowest-income families. As federal programs decline, state and local governments will be pressed to close the gaps in service, jeopardizing the funding that Family Promise and many other charitable organizations rely upon. Our participants are seeing delays in benefits processing and recertifications, creating gaps in coverage and potentially crisis situations. The families we serve are also powerfully impacted by bottlenecks in WIC and childcare services, which are important supports for families in poverty.

Family Promise's success is defined by a set of key objectives that underscore our commitment to addressing homelessness and fostering lasting stability. Our goals are to:

Empower Families Towards Stability: 80% of participating families will achieve stable housing within one year of joining the program.

Enhance Family Well-Being: 70% of families will report an improvement in their overall well-being and self-sufficiency by the end of the program.

Strengthen Community Connections: 90% of families and mentors will maintain a connection after the formal mentoring period ends.

Develop Life Skills: 75% of families will demonstrate improved life skills and greater confidence in managing day-to-day challenges.

Measuring success against these benchmarks drives our mission to help families achieve sustainable housing and stability, ultimately building a stronger, more resilient community.

Through financial education and guidance, we expect to achieve the goal of helping 95% of participants increase their savings. Our desired long-term objectives for those we serve are for 95% of Promise House residents to move out from the Promise House unit within 120 days, and for 85% of participants to maintain stable living arrangements for at least one year after leaving our Promise House. Our six Promise House units (two of which are large enough to comfortably house two families each) will be utilized by about 50 unduplicated people (12 families) in 2026.

Finally, we expect to launch our Mentoring Program this coming winter, focusing on intensive support to attain goals of improved financial stability and housing security. In 2026, we expect to serve a pilot cohort of 20 families (including at least 60 people).

III. ATTACHMENTS

Email this support information. If it is on your website, please provide the URL.

1. Copy of **501 (c) (3)** federal tax-exempt letter
 2. List of **Board** of Directors, with their affiliations **URL:** <https://www.familypromisesc.org/board>
 3. Most recent **annual report** **URL:** <https://www.familypromisesc.org/financials>
 4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement** **URL:** <https://www.familypromisesc.org/financials>
 5. Itemized **organizational operating budget** with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
 6. If capacity building initiative, **itemized budget** (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable)
 7. Current **strategic plan**. If your nonprofit does **not** have a current strategic plan, **explain why**.
- Visit our website to learn more at www.chescocf.org
 - Proposals are only accepted electronically: <https://chescocf.org/receive/apply-for-grants/>
 - **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 Kevin Baffa, Grants Administrator or Stephenie Stevens, Grants Officer at **(610) 696-8211** or grants@chescocf.org with any questions.

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so their philanthropy makes a difference, now & forever.*