

## 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](http://www.chescocf.org) to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
- **Email proposals to [grants@chescocf.org](mailto: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](mailto:grants@chescocf.org) with any questions.

# I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

## Contact Information

**Date:** 2025.07.29

Organization: The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County  
Address: PO Box 832, West Chester, PA, 19381  
Phone: (610) 431-3546  
Website: www.dvcccpa.org  
Year Incorporated: 1984  
FEIN: 22-2606511

ED/CEO Name: Dr. Dolly Wideman-Scott  
ED/CEO E-mail: dwideman-scott@dvcccpa.org  
Board Chair Name: Dr. Yasoda Sharma  
Board Chair Approval (check here):   
Primary Contact Name: Same as CEO  
Primary Contact E-mail: Same as CEO

## Organization Information:

**Field/s of Interest:** Human Services

**Mission:** The mission of the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County is to reduce domestic violence by supporting survivors and advancing prevention strategies.

**Geographic Area Served:** Chester County, PA

## **Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:**

In FY25, DVCCC provided direct services to 1853 individuals, and provided education to an additional 5,265 individuals. We serve all residents of Chester County who identify their primary victimization as domestic violence. This would include, but is not limited to, dating violence/spousal abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking.

**Annual Budget** \$3,065,705.00

85% of budget for program expenses

7% of budget for administrative expenses

8 % of budget for fundraising expenses

*100 % total*

20 Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

22 Board Volunteers

70 Active Non-Board Volunteers

2,080 Volunteer Hours

## **Top 3-5 funding sources:**

The Pennsylvania Coalition on Crime & Delinquency

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

The Pennsylvania Department of Health and Human Services

**This grant proposal is for:** General Operating

**If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:** Mission, Vision & Strategy

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$7,500.00

**Proposal Summary:** The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County respectfully requests \$7,500 for general operations expenses to support and empower survivors of domestic violence in Chester County.

## **II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

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

#### **History**

DVCCC began as the YWCA Women's Resource Center (WRC) to serve as an information and referral service for Chester County women. Once this service became known, it started receiving a flood of calls from women in situations of violence. The directors of WRC, finding no organization in the area to which the victims could be referred, reorganized the agency as the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, focusing on domestic violence intervention and prevention. Since we opened our doors, we have served more than 40,000 victims of domestic abuse.

#### **Goals**

The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County continuously strives to create lasting impacts to improve the lives of survivors of domestic violence and strengthen communities across Chester County. For Fiscal Year 2026, these impacts include the following:

- Enhance survivor autonomy and decision making through individualized guidance and support services.
- Empower survivors via advocacy and counseling to understand their trauma and improve their coping skills.
- Increase stability and housing security for survivors of domestic violence through education, case management, and our shelter and housing programs.
- Strengthening survivor security via safety planning, legal advocacy, and legal representation.
- Build and expand relationships with local non-profits, human service organizations, academic institutions, local units of government, communities of faith, and others to develop a comprehensive continuum of care.

As an organization that provides a broad spectrum of services, our goals are numerous and far reaching. However, each of these goals serves our mission and is evaluated by quantifiable metrics from surveys, service delivery, survivor progress, clinical notes, and other important data. This meticulous attention to detail ensures that DVCCC remains focused on generating the output needed to yield the outcomes that survivors of domestic violence deserve.

#### **Key Achievements**

First and foremost, DVCCC is proud to be celebrating 50 years of serving the people of Chester County. Our longevity and ability to provide so much, to so many has been truly incredible. In early 2025, DVCCC was recognized by the Philadelphia Foundation, William Penn Foundation, Lenfest Institute for Journalism as 1 of 9 Philly area organizations addressing the most pressing challenges in our communities. Additionally, DVCCC has been awarded the Seal of Excellence for our commitment to ethical standards and accountability by the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profits.

#### **Distinctiveness**

Since 1976, DVCCC has remained the sole organization in Chester County recognized by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Department of Health and Human Services to provide services to individuals who present their primary victimization as domestic violence – to include family and/or relationship violence such as intimate partner violence, dating violence, human trafficking, elder and/or child abuse.

### **2. Funding request**

## Key Programs

- 24/7 Hotline – The hotline is initial point of contact for the majority of DVCCC clients. Counseling staff monitors the phones 24/7, to readily respond to all callers ranging from survivors in crisis who need emergency services including shelter and calling to check in with staff attorneys about an upcoming hearing.
- Emergency Shelter – The Emergency Shelter provides an immediate safehouse option for survivors fleeing domestic violence. Our secure, safe and confidential location can provide beds for up to 25 individuals and their dependent children at any given time.
- Bridge Transitional Housing – Similar to the Emergency Shelter, Bridge Housing provides the same security, safety, confidentiality and capacity. By providing temporary housing in a communal setting, DVCCC can alleviate issues caused by domestic violence related homelessness as survivors work with advocates to locate permanent housing.
- Adult Counseling – DVCCC Therapist and Counseling staff provide individual and group counseling to strengthen families and empower survivors who have been affected by the trauma of domestic violence. Additionally, counselors ensure that survivors' additional needs are met by providing food access, clothing, education and referrals for services, as needed.
- Legal Services – Services provided to survivors include legal advocacy, court accompaniment and direct representation in protection from abuse hearings, custody and support cases, and civil matters.
- Outreach Offices – DVCCC operates 4 outreach offices to provide legal advocacy and counseling resources in, English, Spanish and Portuguese, to residents in all regions of Chester County.
- Lethality Assessment Program – LAP is an evidenced based program designed to improve law enforcement response to domestic violence incidents by training local departments how to interact with survivors and deescalate the situation, evaluate the risk of potential future homicide using well documented indicators for increased lethality and directs the officer to put the survivor in contact with the DVCCC 24/7 hotline if an incident indicates high danger.
- Medical Advocacy Program – MAP implements a continuum of care across Chester County by partnering DVCCC with medical provider to establish a large training and referral network. Similar to the LAP program, this program increases healthcare response to domestic violence by training providers on how to interact with survivors in a trauma informed manner and to provide resources or referrals to DVCCC without endangering their safety or confidentiality.
- Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program – TDVP aims to prevent and remedy dating violence in Chester County by providing teens with educational resources to identify abusive patterns, helping them build the skills to advocate for their peers experiencing abuse, and to provide the direct services required to empower them to heal from abuse they witness or experience. To accomplish this, DVCCC has partnered with 32 schools, community & youth-based non-profits, medical providers, and other organizations to provide presentations to teens and staff training to support teens.

## Scope of Issue

Unfortunately, domestic violence is prevalent, pervasive, and occurs under a broad scope. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), 32% of individuals will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. The most prevalent issues faced by survivors of domestic violence are outlined below:

- Homelessness – Per the US Department of Health and Human Services, domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children. In FY25, utilization of our shelter services more than doubled with services provided to children increasing by 140%.
- Trauma and mental health issues – Popular culture often depicts domestic violence as a primarily physical issue, invoking the image of bruised yet resilient survivors. The reality is that survivors of domestic

violence develop severe forms of PTSD, live in states of perpetual crisis, develop higher rates of depression, anxiety, anti-social behaviors, and are at elevated risk for substance abuse.

- Legal issues – The legal system offers many protections for survivors of domestic violence. However, a lack of understanding or awareness prevents many survivors from fully utilizing statutory protection and judicial recourse.

These are only a handful of our most pressing issues as forms of domestic violence range from intimate partner violence to human trafficking. To address such a broad scope of issues, DVCCC offers extensive services to adults and children. These services include legal advocacy and representation, medical advocacy, counseling, 24-hour hotline, housing programs, and education. Additionally, DVCCC partners with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

To learn more about the issues faced by survivors of domestic violence please visit our website, [www.dvcccpa.org](http://www.dvcccpa.org), or contact us directly with any questions.

### **Why Now**

Since 2020, incidents of domestic violence have been rising across the nation. This correlates with the rise in risk factors, such as economic instability, which the US Center for Disease Control have identified as increasing the likelihood of domestic violence.

### **Measuring Impact**

DVCCC utilizes the following methods/tools to measure impact:

- ETO – Demographic and service data is compiled utilizing Efforts to Outcomes (ETO), a database tool used in partnership with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. ETO provides DVCCC with the ability to develop reports and evaluate program efficacy.
- VS3 – DVCCC implements the Victim’s Services Satisfaction Survey (VS3) which allows recipients of our services to evaluate their experience with each type of service received, as well as perform a self-evaluation regarding their feelings on their personal progress towards healing and empowerment. Through VS3, DVCCC can utilize clients direct feedback to improve service delivery by listening directly to the experiences of survivors.
- Survivor Testimonials & Community Feed Back – Survivors, family & friends of survivors, volunteers, and community partners are encouraged to share their experience with DVCCC directly. This provides our organization with the opportunity to engage, discover community needs and develop best practices.
- Program Data – DVCCC maintains data for each specific program. An example of this would include surveys provided to teens during the Teen Dating Violence Programs which are used to gauge audience learning.

Through the above outlined methods, DVCCC can evaluate the effect of our programs and impact on our communities.

## **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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## 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