

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

Contact Information

Organization: Chester County Community Collaborative
Address: P.O. Box 825, Downingtown, PA 19335
Phone: 484-320-7103
Website: singlemotherscc.org
Year Incorporated: 2020
FEIN: 84-4833522

ED/CEO Name: Matrie Johnson, President
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Board Chair Name: Matrie Johnson
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Joyce Lacy, Treasurer
Primary Contact E-mail: jmlacy1002@gmail.com

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest: X Human Services

Mission:

The Chester County Community Collaborative enables the collective resources of Chester County to empower the underserved. Specifically, the Collaborative is the home of the Chester County Single Mothers' Conference (SMC) - for whom this application is submitted - and Black Women of Chester County in Action (BWCCA) - whose principals participate in the SMC.

Since 2012, the annual Chester County Single Mothers' Conference mission has been to empower single mothers through encouragement, engagement and education while sharing experiences with and learning from fellow single mothers.

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: Our main focus is on single mothers in Chester County. The US census estimates that number to be 12,800 women. We reach approximately 100 of them each year. They are raising 13,000 Chester County children under age 18 (one in five households with children).

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|---|---|
| Annual Budget \$ <u> 13,850.00 </u> (in 2025) | <u> 0 </u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff |
| <u> 88.8 </u> % of budget for program expenses | <u> 5 </u> # of Board Volunteers |
| <u> 11.1 </u> % of budget for administrative expenses | <u> 45 </u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers |
| <u> 0 </u> % of budget for fundraising expenses | <u> 2,225 </u> # of Volunteer Hours |

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: (in 2025): Benchmark FCU, Health Partners Plans, MacElree Harvey Ltd., WCU Cottrell Entrepreneurship Center, Greater West Chester Sunshine Rotary Foundation

Is this grant proposal for: General Operating X

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE/SINGLE MOTHERS' CONFERENCE 2025-2026 GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Specific needs & issues to be addressed:

One in five Chester County households with Children under 18 is headed by a single mother. The US Census Bureau's 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates that these households are raising more than 13,000 Chester County children under age 18 (over 11%).

(<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/S1101SPHOUSE042029>)

Since 2012, the Chester County Single Mothers' Conference has pooled the talents and resources of volunteers and the Chester County agencies who serve single mothers to encourage, engage, educate, and empower them to be the best parents, employees, and citizens they can be. We solicit your support to provide both mothers and their children with this FREE enriching and rewarding experience.

Contributing members of the Chester County Community Collaborative in 2026 include volunteers plus Home of the Sparrow, YMCA of Greater Brandywine, ACTnow, Gap Coalition of Chester County, and Friends Association. They witness women struggling to house, clothe, feed, and nurture their children, not to mention carve out time for self-care.

Description of key initiatives:

We provide FREE child care, breakfast, lunch, inspiring workshops presented by community partners, and a pampering session. Attendees share ideas with other moms, meet with businesses and non-profits in the Community Connections feature, and celebrate outstanding single mothers with the Belinda Harrison Award. Their children spend a day in a safe, camp-like environment complete with lunch, snacks, fun, and games.

Workshops focus on topics of importance to single mothers. Recent ones included "Rent Smart", "What is your Financial Story?", "Legal Issues", and "Cyber Bullying". We have hosted panel discussions on Careers and Mentoring, and we have held listening sessions on Birthing Equity and Challenges Faced by Single Mothers (a common theme: affordable, accessible child care).

The **Community Connections** feature introduces moms to people who can help them make the most of their limited time, money, and energy. At the 2025 Conference, for example, Family Service of Chester County gave away active wear, P.E.O. (a Philanthropic Educational Organization) invited women to apply for scholarships and other financial assistance, and sponsors like Health Partners Plans promoted healthy lifestyles and explained healthcare coverage options.

We present the prestigious **Belinda Harrison Award** - the only award in Chester County, PA, that recognizes the achievements of single mothers. It is named for the late Belinda Harrison, a social service professional who overcame daunting personal challenges to become a revered member of the community through her commitment to helping others. This award has a cash prize of \$500 for the winner, plus prizes for the runners-up. Plaques and flowers are also included in the awards.

Each attendee is offered a short **pampering** session, choosing from chair massages, facials, and other services that promote the importance of self-care. Moms also receive commemorative **gifts**, door prizes from the Community Connections, and pantry staples provided by the West Chester Food Cupboard.

Virtual Workshops and mini gatherings throughout the year round out the list of key initiatives that support the Conference beyond the annual in-person event. They can be referenced on our YouTube channel and social media posts (@singlemotherscc). These expand on the in-person teachings and promote upcoming programming.

The cost to single mothers for this day: \$0. The cost to the Chester County Community Collaborative: over \$17,000, plus thousands of dollars in in-kind contributions and services of an all-volunteer staff.

Why it is important to fund this now:

Lost sponsorship: The Chester County Community Collaborative (CCCC) has been promoting and producing the Single Mothers' Conference since 2012 without reliance on government funding. Sponsors have generously contributed funds to keep the initiative in front of mothers and the community. However, our 2026 event has lost its Title Sponsor, Benchmark Federal Credit Union, who is focusing on a merger in early 2026. The unrestricted sponsorship over the past ten years was accompanied by access to Benchmark's Public Relations resources and connections, which promoted the event throughout the County and Southeastern Pennsylvania. Both their financial and in-kind support have been reduced.

Rising expenses: We believe in the saying, "There is no such thing as a free lunch." The costs associated with the care and feeding of our attendees, their children, our volunteers, and Community Connections continue to escalate, and so do other expenses like the rental of tables and chairs, commemorative gifts, and promotional tools like yard signs, electronic billboards and printed flyers. We also pay for insurance, web hosting and other administrative functions required of all non-profit organizations.

One feature of the Conference that we stand steadfastly behind is that the fee to attendees is \$0.00.

How impact & results will be demonstrated:

We continue to survey attendees after the conference, and we also engage in dialog with the speakers and Community Connections representatives to learn of their impressions. Our goal is to increase attendance, as well as 'shares' and 'likes' on our social media accounts. Increased following translates to increased attendance.

When a single mother returns to subsequent Conferences, it tells us that the content and atmosphere make it worthwhile for them to spend a day with us to be encouraged, engaged, educated, and empowered. For example, Guillermina Rios was so impressed when she attended the conference that she became a volunteer at the next one, then a Committee Chair. She now serves as the chair of the event. Belinda Harrison award winners often return to help out in some capacity as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to support the single mothers raising more than 13,000 children in Chester County, PA.