



Celebrate America's 250th Birthday!
For Good. For All. Forever.



DARE TO DECLARE

CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION "DARE TO DECLARE" MINI-GRANT APPLICATION FORM

An electronic version of this application is available at <https://cccf250.org/daretodeclare/>

Please note: Per IRS regulations, grants can be awarded to nonprofit charities and municipalities, but NOT individuals nor businesses.

Contact Information

Contact Person Name: Keith A. Kurowski, Chair
 Organization Name: West Chester Area Council of Governments America 250 Committee
 Address: 401 E. Gay St. West Chester, PA 19380
 Phone: 610-436-9010
 Email: kkurowski@west-chester.com
 Website:
 Year Incorporated: 1799 (Borough of West Chester, host municipality)
 FEIN #: 23-6002957
 Note: Please attach a copy of your 501c3 letter with this request.

Organization Field of Interest

<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts, Culture, Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment, Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Library
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health & Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Justice, Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Municipality/Govt	<input type="checkbox"/> If other, please describe:			

Mini-Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$2,500
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Your Dare to Declare Event:

Date - 8.2.26	Time- TBD (4-8 pm)	Location Name – Borough of West Chester	Location Address – event will take place in downtown West Chester
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Please BRIEFLY describe: 1-how this funding will help your Dare to Declare Event, 2-who it will impact, 3-the approximate amount you'll be spending on Dare to Declare activities overall, and 4-who you are partnering/coordinating with.

Please e-mail this Mini-Grant request with your 501c3 letter to grants@chescofc.org
 Dare to Declare Mini-Grant decisions are made on the 25th of each month.
 Questions? Contact Grants Officer Stephenie Stevens (610) 696-8211 grants@chescofc.org

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1-How this funding will help your Dare to Declare event?

Potential grant funding would significantly offset the cost of production and equipment to support this portion of our larger event. The Dare to Declare aspect is the kickoff to a day of celebrating America 250. Each municipality has budgeted “seed money” to get the ball rolling. Our large-scale event will consume those funds, and we feel as though this grant funding could be better sourced to support this portion of the event. Hosting an event of this size requires extensive Borough resources to close streets and manage logistics. With an expected attendance of 8,000–10,000 people, the Borough is well-prepared to manage these demands based on its experience with similar events.

Seven municipalities have budgeted \$3k per equaling \$21k.

2-Who it will impact?

We are hosting an event that will encompass the entire downtown area which will be devoted to different eras in American history and how they relate to both the nation as a whole and our individual municipalities. The event is free to attend, and we anticipate a large gathering.

Utilizing six blocks of downtown West Chester, the historic Chester County Courthouse steps, two Borough owned parking garages, and a downtown parking lot we will lively up West Chester with a mix of both historic and entertaining reenactments, educational programming, and tried and true festival staples. Plans to promote the already amazing Hall of Heroes (at the Historic Chester County Courthouse) are in the works as well. The Dare to Declare portion will kick off the festivities with a reading of Declaration of Independence and a raising of the Stars and Stripes. The readers of the Declaration of Independence have yet to be determined, but we will focus our efforts on local, community minded individuals that best represent our vision.

The America 250 Celebration will take place from 4-8pm with all the items listed above (and more) ...and will culminate with a rooftop viewing party atop of the Borough’s Chestnut St. & Bicentennial parking garages. Here we will host patrons who have either purchased tickets for food/drinks, live entertainment or just want a better view at the upcoming.... DRONE SHOW provided by *Star Flight Drone Shows*. In case folks do not want to purchase tickets, we will offer a lottery for a limited number of seats at the Borough’s other parking garage (Bicentennial) for free or donation based. While the drone show will be viewable from street level the optimal viewing areas will be at higher levels.

3-The approximate amount you'll be spending on Dare to Declare activities overall

Marketing/Advertising - \$3000

Printed materials/signage - \$2500

Equipment rentals (tents/tables/etc....) \$2500

4-Who you are partnering/coordinating with?

The Borough of West Chester, in coordination with the West Chester Area Council of Governments or WCACOG (consisting of East Bradford, East Goshen, Thornbury , West Chester Borough, West Goshen, Westtown, and West Whiteland) will be hosting a one-day celebration of the last 250 years of the nation on Sunday August 2nd , 2026 While the delicate details are still being worked out, the main framework of the event is in place as mentioned above.

We will collaborate with additional local organizations that can enhance the event, including, but not limited to, the Chester County History Center, the West Chester Chamber of Commerce, and Downtown West Chester (formerly the West Chester Business Improvement District).

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