



LET FREEDOM RING

AMERICA250 GRANT APPLICATION FORM

CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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

Contact Information

Contact Person Name: Keith Kurowski, Chair
 Organization Name: West Chester Area Council of Government America 250 Committee
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 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. Per IRS regulations, grants can be awarded to nonprofit charities and municipalities, but NOT individuals nor businesses.

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/Governmental	<input type="checkbox"/> If other, please describe:			

A lot	Some	A little	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This inspires & engages a wide array of people in commemoration of America's founding with our Revolutionary Declaration of Independence.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This connects Chester County's stories to the nation's past, present & future.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This commemoration is truly by the people, for all people. We invite wide input & welcome all to actively participate.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This examines & fosters fundamental rights of Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness for All.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We zoom in to CCCF250 planning meetings to share information & ideas.

Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$250	\$1,250	\$2,250	\$5,250	\$10,250		

Please **BRIEFLY** describe how this funding will help your programs, services, activities and/or events to celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation's Declaration of Independence, and our continuing journey toward liberty and justice for all.

What are you doing? When? Who will it impact? What difference do you aim to make?

What will it cost overall? Who are you partnering & coordinating with?

Please e-mail this Mini-Grant request with your 501c3 letter to grants@chescof.org

Let Freedom Ring Mini-Grant decisions are made on the 25th of each month.

Questions? Contact Grants Officer Stephenie Stevens (610) 696-8211 grants@chescof.org

For Good. For All. Forever.

Let Freedom Ring CCCF America 250 Grant Narrative

What are you doing? When? Who will it impact? What difference do you aim to make?

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The Borough of West Chester, in coordination with the West Chester Area Council of Governments (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 from 4-8m in downtown West Chester. While the delicate details are still being worked out, the main framework of the event is in place.

We will be 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 all are welcome.

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).

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. We will host a reading of the Declaration of Independence (Dare to Declare) as the kickoff to our event along with 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 each municipality.

The America250 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.

Potential grant funding would significantly offset the cost for all the activities and amenities we have planned, especially our finale, which is the drone show. Each municipality has budgeted “seed money” to get the ball rolling and we have \$21k in our coffers currently. This large-scale event will consume those funds, and we feel as though the grant funding could be better sourced to support the broader celebration. 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.

Current Budget

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

Estimated/generalized budget below.

Estimated Budget for 8.2.26 America250 Celebration			
Revenues estimated			
Municipal engagements	21000	\$3k per municipality	
Tix sales Rooftop Viewing party sponsorship/s?	25000	based on \$50 pp with 500 people paid	
		37, 500 if we charge \$75 pp	
		50,000 if we charged \$100 pp	
	estimated total	46000	
Expenses estimated			
		* estimates	
Star Flight Drone Show	8950	known cost	
WCPD/PW/Parking OT	18000		
Advertising/Promotions	6000		
Veiwng Party entertainment	8000		
Veiwng Party catering (food & drink)	10000		
Event equipment (tents/tables/ect...)	3000		
Event "tried and true" features (moonbounces, etc...)	5000		
other enterainment (courthouse area)	7000		
miscellaneous event expenses	2000		
	estimated total	67950	

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