

GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES as of 10.1.25

Direct Service Programs & General Operations

No deadline for DAF proposals.
Deadlines announced thru the year for Directed Funds.

- ◇ Grants **focus on Chester County** causes & issues; but are not limited to Chester County.
- ◇ Charitable nonprofits working in **all fields of interest** are considered, such as:
 - Arts, Culture, Heritage
 - Education, Libraries
 - Environment, Animals
 - Health
 - Human Services
 - Social Justice, Civic Engagement

◇ **General operating** grants are encouraged. Clear, succinct, compelling descriptions are appreciated: mission, aims, results & impact.

- ◇ Nonprofits with **higher GuideStar ratings** receive stronger consideration. Update yours for free at <https://www.guidestar.org/>



Capacity Building:


Coping with Cutbacks

No deadline.
Proposals accepted anytime.
Reviewed 15th bi-monthly.

- ◇ Nonprofits must be **located in & primarily serve Chester County**.
- ◇ Nonprofit annual **budget** must be **\$1M or less**.
- ◇ The goal of capacity building grants is to **strengthen organizational ability to effectively achieve mission and become more sustainable** over time. Priority will be given to proposals that help nonprofits shift their paradigms to cope with challenges and changes. Areas of focus include:
 - **Scenario & Contingency Planning**
 - **Financial Modeling**
 - **Partnerships, Collaborations**
 - **Merger**
 - **Closure**
 - **Resource Development, Revenue Diversification**
 - Mission, Vision, Strategy
 - Board Engagement, Leadership



As you are aware, there is ongoing uncertainty around federal and state funding that significantly impacts nonprofit organizations. The Community Foundation is committed to supporting a strong and resilient sector, and we encourage all organizations to be proactive in their planning.

 We strongly encourage every nonprofit to engage in scenario planning, examine cash flow projections and assess funding risks. We have seen nonprofits explore a variety of pathways forward, such as adapting program design, reducing or merging operations and significantly diversifying revenue streams.

Please contact Kevin Baffa, Grant Administrator or Stephenie Stevens, Grant Officer at (610) 696-8211 or grants@chescocf.org with questions.

*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their philanthropy makes a difference, now & forever.*

HOW ARE GRANT DECISIONS MADE AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

The Chester County Community Foundation **connects people who care with causes that matter**, so philanthropy makes a difference **now & forever**. With **400+ charitable funds** housed under one umbrella, a single proposal provides multiple pathways for nonprofits to be considered for funding. Nonprofits are encouraged to submit proposals **throughout the year**. Grant funds are awarded from multiple funding pools:

1. GRANTS FROM CCCF DONOR ADVISED FUNDS (DAFS)

- **Families and individuals** establish Donor Advised Funds—endowed charitable funds invested to provide a perpetual stream of earnings to fund nonprofit grants.
- Most DAF grants support **direct service programs and general operations**.
- DAF grant decisions are made independently by donors, sometimes with guidance from Community Foundation staff, and are awarded on a **rolling basis throughout the year**.

2. GRANTS FROM CCCF DESIGNATED ENTRUSTED FUNDS

- CCCF Designated Entrusted Funds are stewarded by volunteer grant panels and Community Foundation staff.
- We accept **Operating & Program Grants proposals year-round**; and from time-to-time issue special, focused Calls for Proposals as new funding becomes available.
- We accept **Capacity Building Grant Proposals year-round**; and from time-to-time issue Calls for Capacity Building Proposals as new funding becomes available. Capacity building grants are intended to strengthen the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of nonprofits serving Chester County.
- Grant panels review proposals and deliberate **monthly**.

DUE DILIGENCE

The Community Foundation is committed to making thoughtful, informed grantmaking decisions. To do so, our staff, donors, and grant panel volunteers:

- Review organizational and financial data via **GuideStar** (<https://www.guidestar.org>) and IRS Form 990.
- Review all submitted proposals, which are **publicly available** at <https://chescofcf.org/receive/find-active-grants/>.
- Conduct site visits, community research, and online research to better understand mission and impact.

Please note: In compliance with IRS regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations; funding cannot be awarded to individuals.

TO APPLY

- To learn more, visit www.chescofcf.org
- Proposals are only accepted electronically. The format is online at <https://chescofcf.org/receive/apply-for-grants/>
- **E-mail proposals to grants@chescofcf.org**
- Proposals are considered “complete” when CCCF has **confirmed** receipt of the **Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative & Attachments**. Budgets and financials are important. Please include them.
- Proposals are shared electronically and on-line with Fund Advisors, Donors & Grant Panels.

Please contact Kevin Baffa, Grants Administrator or Stephenie Stevens, Grants Officer at **(610) 696-8211** or grants@chescofcf.org with questions.

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GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors + posted online.

Date

Contact Information

Organization Name: Emergent Abundance Farming Collective	ED/CEO Name: Yulia Smagorinsky
Address: 309 Beech Lane, Kennett Square PA 19348	ED/CEO E-mail: eafcollective@gmail.com
Phone: 8606394077	Board Chair Name: Katharine Michael
Website: emergentabundance.com	Board Chair Approval (check here): x
Year Incorporated: 2024	Primary Contact Name: Yulia Smagorinsky
FEIN: 99-1912929	Primary Contact E-mail: eafcollective@gmail.com

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

X	Arts, Culture, Heritage	X	Education, Library	X	Environment, Animals
X	Health	X	Human Services	X	Social Justice, Civic Engagement
	Religion	If other, please describe:			

Mission:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): Kennett Square area through KACS, as well as Chester County residents who receive food and other community support as members, furthermore Free Food For All Wilmington, DE

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served. (Include Chester County # &/or % served.) Low/No income population of the Kennett Area through KACS - estimated people served 300 or more; food insecure population in Wilmington, DE, estimated people served 50.

Annual Budget \$ 2,000 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff 0 _____

70 _____ % of budget for program expenses 4 _____ # of Board Volunteers

25 _____ % of budget for administrative expenses 12 _____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

5 _____ % of budget for fundraising expenses 1300 _____ # of Volunteer Hours

100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

This grant proposal is for: x 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: \$ 2,700_____

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

This grant will support our new open volunteer gardening days, by allowing us to purchase the tools we need to engage larger groups. The regular (weekly and bi-weekly) open volunteer days will welcome the wider community without requiring to join EAFC as a member.

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

Emergent Abundance Farming Collective (EAFC) was born in 2020 out of the COVID-19 pandemic as a way for individual farmers and gardeners to grow food for community members in need, while also providing a safe, outdoor space for communal gatherings and skill shares. This has contributed greatly to the emotional health of the collective members as well as the food security of the area we serve. After starting the collective on private land, EAFC was granted permission in March 2021 to farm on Kennett township-owned land, Spar Hill Farm. Since 2020, we have consistently donated produce weekly to area services. We have held numerous skill shares on topics such as traditional herbal medicine, vinegar making, plant propagation, mushroom production and wild harvesting, as well as a five-month winter film and conversation series held at the Kennett Library. We run a seed library and seed sovereignty program in partnership with the library too.

Now in our 5th year at Spar Hill Preserve, Kennett Township, we have moved long ways toward our goal of establishing a diverse integrated agro-ecological growing space including annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, and native flora and fauna.

We aim to increase our active membership with an eye towards inclusiveness and accessibility. We continue to expand learning opportunities through skill shares, hands-on learning and other community events.

We have established key partnerships with area organizations, including the Kennett Library, Kennett Area Community Services, Greenlight Nursery, the Lenape Nation of PA, Free Food for All Wilmington, Chester County Food Bank and Kennett Township.

(Also see the 2025 Impact Report)

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?**

Emergent Abundance Farming Collective continues to need to attract more volunteers. Thanks to the Capacity Building Grant we received from CCCF in 2024 ([video series](#)), we are now able to onboard new members and volunteers more effectively. We have recently lost a few of our key members who moved out of state as well as due to personal/family reasons. We have developed a marketing strategy to improve our outreach. One of the key components of this strategy are open-volunteer days, which will allow us to engage more parts of the wider community by creating easier entry points.

This program will allow volunteers to participate in one-time events and may lead to new members who will be committed more long term on a regular basis.

So far, participating volunteers have been asked to join as members. We now are seeking to create more inclusion and easier entryways by opening up more work days to the wider community. We are hoping to

attract larger and diverse groups who will need to be provided with tools in order to participate meaningfully. This grant proposal is specifically requesting funds to purchase a variety of high-quality hand tools.

When we got started at Spar Hill Farm in 2021, we sourced many of our tools through in-kind donations. We made do with what we had, which was not always enough and not necessarily good quality. A lot of these tools had already been used heavily and having had another five years, they are no longer serving our needs. We would like to invest in professional garden tools that will serve us for a long time. As a collective dedicated to carbon-neutrality and carbon-sink farming, we do not use power tools. High quality hand tools are paramount. We will increase the amount and variety of tools in our shed so that we can easily offer meaningful volunteer opportunities to bigger groups as well as make our work easier over all.

The development of the permaculture garden as well as the internal organization and shared leadership is at a point where we are ready to include more people. Our permaculture garden is more legible and accessible, thanks to many improvements we made over the years. Many of the trees we planted have grown to a size where they are now clearly identifiable as trees, we have built and are maintaining many pathways thereby improving access and navigation, we now have a well-organized locking garden shed inside the garden for tool storage, there is an easy-to-navigate deer fence, some signage, maps, [instructional videos](#) and so much more.

While creating opportunities for people to meet, learn and engage with each other is meaningful in itself and in full alignment with our social mission, increasing community engagement and potentially membership will support our efforts to grow an abundance of high quality food to share with KACS and other local food justice groups as well individuals in need.

- **Additionally, for capacity building grant proposals:**
 - **How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?**
 - **How will this impact be demonstrated?**
 - **Include a description of the expected activities; timeline & costs to implement the initiative. If external consulting services are required, include the anticipated costs & expertise of the consultants to be hired. Include external consultant proposal/s if applicable.**
- Visit our website to learn more at www.chescocf.org
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- Per IRS Regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax-exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification & cannot be individuals.

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Capacity building is about empowering nonprofits to do **more good, more effectively, and for the long term**. It strengthens an organization’s ability to fulfill its mission, enhance sustainability, and better serve its community.

At its core, capacity building focuses on improving a nonprofit’s internal systems, leadership, and resources so that impact can grow and endure.

Traditionally, capacity building has included efforts such as **board and staff leadership development, strategic planning, fundraising, and technology investments** to improve operations and organizational effectiveness.

Today, however, nonprofits face a rapidly changing environment. Shifts in federal policies have resulted in rapid changes at all levels and in new directions. Nonprofits must **“meet the moment” and cope with cutbacks— think differently, shift paradigms and transform how we understand and interact with the world around us...adapt how we plan, lead, fund, and collaborate.**

Capacity building can play a critical role in helping nonprofits adapt and innovate. This may include **funding scenario planning, exploring new revenue models, expanding partnerships, pursuing mergers or strategic alliances**, and other adaptive strategies that strengthen long-term resilience.

Capacity building support can take many forms, tailored to each organization’s unique needs. Examples of projects that may be funded include:

- **CONTINGENCY & SCENARIO PLANNING**
Scenario Planning – Financial Modeling & Forecasting
- **PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATIONS**
Coalition Building – Collaboration - Mergers & Acquisitions
- **MERGER, CLOSURE**
These unprecedented times may present the need for a merger or closure of your organization.
Contact chaya@chescof.org to confidentially discuss funding to assist in the planning or initial steps.
- **MISSION, VISION, STRATEGY**
Organizational Assessment - Strategic Planning – Strategic Restructuring – Coping With Cutbacks
- **BOARD ENGAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP**
Board Recruitment – Board Engagement – Increasing Networks & Community Support - Leadership Development – Executive Transition & Succession Planning
- **MARKETING, COMMUNICATION**
Nonprofit Business Messaging & Storytelling – Re-branding – Marketing Planning & Re-Positioning – Crisis Communications Planning
- **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**
Major Gift Donor Identification, Cultivation, Development & Stewardship - Development Campaigns (Annual, Capital, Planned Giving) - Earned Income Development - Social Enterprise Feasibility & Development
- **TECHNOLOGY, OPERATIONS**
Business Continuity Planning - Financial Management - Human Resources - Volunteer Management - Industry Certification - Risk Management - Technology Improvements

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