



## JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS

The Chester County Community Foundation accepts applications from selected nonprofit charitable causes for the **Jonas C., Marian D., & Robert H. Erb Charitable Fund**, a fund of the Chester County Community Foundation.

**Proposals are due by Friday, March 13, 2026.** Upon review of the initial proposals, a site visit may be conducted of the finalists. Grants will be awarded in the fall. Grant awards typically range from \$50,000 - \$100,000.

Please use the attached Grant Proposal Format to apply for a grant.

Grant applications should be submitted electronically by Friday, March 13, 2026 to [grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org). The e-mail heading should read: Grant Proposal Submission- Erb Charitable Fund

Please note that all grant applications will be available electronically on the Chester County Community Foundation's website for additional consideration for grant funding by the Community Foundation's Donor Advised Fund Advisors.

Questions? Please contact:  
Stephenie Stevens, Grants Director & Outreach Officer  
Chester County Community Foundation  
28 West Market Street  
West Chester, PA 19382  
[www.chesdcocf.org](http://www.chesdcocf.org)  
[Steph@chescofc.org](mailto:Steph@chescofc.org)  
(610) 696-8211



CHESTER COUNTY  
community  
FOUNDATION



**JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB  
CHARITABLE FUND  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**I. SUMMARY SHEET**

*(One page only. This page will be shared with Grant Committee Members.)*

**Date: March 1, 2026**

**Contact Information:**

Organization Name: Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead  
Address: 3900 North Sandy Flash Drive  
Newtown Square, PA 19073 (physical)  
PO Box 158 Gradyville, PA 19039 (mailing)  
Phone: 412-200-0694  
Web Address: www.colonialfarmstead.org

Contact Name: Sarah Lerch  
Contact Title: Executive Director  
Contact E-mail: director@colonialfarmstead.org  
Fax:  
Year Incorporated: 1973

**Has your nonprofit previously applied to the Community Foundation:** Yes  No

**Field/s of Interest:**

Arts, Culture and Humanities     Environment/Animal Welfare     Health  
 Human Services     Education     Religion

**Organizational Information:**

Geographic Area Served:  
Southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey; focus on Delaware, Chester, and Philadelphia Counties

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: Average 10,000 annual visitation including over 6,000 school students. Weekend visitation encompasses local community, travelers, Farmstead members, Library members, Blue Star Museum participants, and Museum for All participants. Programs support engagement for all ages.

Mission Statement: To educate, engage, and inspire through immersive, research-driven experiences connecting the agricultural and domestic skills of Southeastern Pennsylvania Revolutionary Era farm life to the rapidly changing world of colonial America.

Organization Description: Revolutionary era living history farm interpreting the skills and narratives of colonial farmers during a transformative time.

Annual Budget \$ 394,381.00    5    # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
70.5 % of budget for program expenses    8    # of Board Volunteers  
26 % of budget for administrative expenses    35    # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
3.5 % of budget for fundraising expenses    1750    # of Volunteer Hours  
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Education: 36%

Contributed Support: 33%

Grant: 16%

Weekend Visitation/Admission: 5%

Fundraiser Events: 4%

***Proposal Information:***

Grant Amount Requested: \$\_\_\_\_\_75,000\_\_\_\_\_

Summary Description of Grant Purpose: **Revolutionary Farmers: 50 Years of Living History**

In 2026, the nation's 250th anniversary of independence will coincide with a powerful milestone for Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead: 50 years as a public living history site. This yearlong commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reconnect with visitors and deepen public understanding of the Revolutionary Era for the next 50 years through the lens of everyday farm families whose labor, choices, and values shaped early America.

The Farmstead is seeking \$75,000 through the Erb Charitable Fund to launch Revolutionary Farmers, a comprehensive programmatic initiative that leverages the dual milestones to invest in the site's next 50 years of community and educational impact.

The requested funding will transform the Farmstead's current immersive offerings into sustainable, year-round models of place-based history.

Specifically the funding will cover:

1. Salary support for two existing, core full-time staff roles, the Education and Program Manager and the Historic Farm Manager, to oversee the development and implementation of the site's robust calendar of programming and the specialized care of the heritage breed animals and historic buildings central to the visitor experience and essential for demonstration full cycle 18-century agriculture.
2. Expansion and creation of a well-rounded annual calendar of public programming, such as Revolutionary Science and Flax Day; special events, such as Sheep Shearing and Yuletide; and historic skills workshops ranging from hearth cooking and weaving to tilling and blacksmithing all designed to serve as sustainable, long-term revenue streams.
3. Investment in durable education and program supplies to maximize the participatory nature of the programming and instructor fees for skills workshops designed to extend community reach and strengthen partnerships with community organizations, artists, and historic tradespersons.
4. Support for the Farmstead's equitable access admission program including participation in the Museums for All admission program and providing reduced cost library memberships in Delaware and Chester County to minimize financial barriers to the site's programming.



## JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

*Please provide the following information clearly and concisely.  
Proposals of 1 or 2 pages are strongly encouraged.*

#### 1. **Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness**

The property was originally granted by William Penn in 1686 and owned by the Pratt family from 1720-1820. It remained a working farm through the 1950s until the founders of the museum leased 112 acres of the original property within the newly created Ridley Creek State Park to restore using careful historical and archaeological research. The site opened to the public in 1976 as "museum in the making" for the nation's Bicentennial, allowing visitors to participate in the restoration and daily 18th century farming activities. Originally known as Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation, the site was renamed in 2024 to Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead to better reflect the site's inclusive interpretive goals. The Farmstead strives to be a regional leader in 18th-century farming and historic skills, providing place-based context for early American history during a transformative time. What distinguishes the Farmstead is its commitment to full-cycle historic farming, demonstrating how nearly 90 percent of colonial Americans sustained themselves through agriculture. Few sites are positioned to tell this story as holistically as the Farmstead, where history is not only interpreted but actively lived through seasonal, hands-on agricultural practice. Through living history, visitors experience how farming anchored daily life while intersecting with the political, economic, and cultural upheavals of the Revolutionary Era, connections that remain relevant today.

#### 2. **Funding request:**

##### A. **Specific Chester County and/or Montgomery County needs and issues addressed**

The proposed project aligns with the Fund's mission of supporting learning skills and equitable access to education and resources by providing place-based, immersive research-driven experiences to Chester County and surrounding communities. Furthermore, it addresses the need for preservation of regional history, particularly stories and skills that provide the context for early American history for diverse audiences.

##### B. **Organizational impact (for general operating proposals) or project impact (for project proposals)**

The Revolutionary Farmers program initiative is a transformative investment in the Farmstead's educational mission and successful programmatic foundation. While celebrating the dual milestones of the nation's 250th alongside the Farmstead's own 50th anniversary, the primary impact of the commitment is the creation of a sustainable programmatic model designed to thrive for the next 50 years.

##### C. **Overall strategies to implement the organization's mission (or project)**

The site's implementation strategy centers on place-based history and using the landscape and historic structures as an anchor to the tangible skills and realities of daily life and labor. Also central to this strategy is the salary support for two key staff members, whose leadership and expertise ensure delivery of high quality, immersive experiences in an engaging learning environment.

**D. Why it is important to fund this now**

2026 represents a significant milestone for both the nation and the Farmstead. Heightened public interest in the nation's founding principles provides an opportunity to grow community awareness and visibility through expanded programming. Funding now ensures that the site is not merely hosting one-time celebratory events, but instead building a stronger programmatic foundation necessary to become a regional leader in 18th-century skills to inspire and educate future generations.

**3. Timetable, with anticipated outcomes and their relevance to the nonprofit's mission**

Throughout 2026 and 2027, the Farmstead will launch Revolutionary Farmers featuring expanded weekend programming and historic skills and trades workshops. These efforts will result in a sustainable programmatic model and increased community awareness and engagement directly advancing the Farmstead's educational mission and goal to provide historical education for the next 50 years.

**4. How impact and results will be demonstrated**

The Farmstead will evaluate the project success using a combination of quantitative metrics including tracking visitation and event registration, ability to establish new annual sustainable programming over a multi-year period, and improved community response and engagement onsite and digitally.

### III. ATTACHMENTS

*Please attach the following 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 and financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year and current fiscal year to date
5. Itemized project budget (if applying for project-specific grant)

*Note: The Philanthropy Network's Grant Application may be submitted with CCCF Summary Sheet. Please visit our website at [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org) to obtain an electronic version of this application. E-mail applications are strongly encouraged.*

Please e-mail completed applications to:  
Stephenie Stevens, Grants Director & Outreach Officer  
Chester County Community Foundation  
28 West Market Street  
West Chester, PA 19382  
[grants@chescocf.org](mailto:grants@chescocf.org) [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)  
(610) 696-8211

THANK YOU!

## **JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND**

### ***Mission...***

Charitable purpose limited to education, especially those involving reading, writing and speech, with an emphasis on attending Montgomery County Community College, or similar credited institution in Chester, Montgomery, or Delaware Counties in Pennsylvania, through direct scholarships or to provide assistance to such colleges through their programs and activities, which in the discretion of the Founding Fund Advisors, make a significant impact on learning enhancement and learning skills.

### ***About Robert H. Erb...***

Robert H. Erb Joined the Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) faculty in 1970 as a librarian, just 6 years after the College's founding. He often worked evenings and enjoyed helping adult students, assisting them with their research, listening to their stories, and providing encouragement. His service in the library continued for 45 years until his retirement in 2015. However, Mr. Erb's commitment to MCCC did not end with his tenure. As a passionate learner and an avid steward of his community, Mr. Erb was always looking to improve and learn more each day, and he wanted to help MCCC students do the same. He was passionate about the community college mission and equitable access to education and information for all. Simply put, Mr. Erb "wanted Montco to be a 'reflection of the community.'" That is one of the many reasons he continued his partnership with the College as a philanthropist both during and after his employment.

Unfortunately, in July of 2021, Mr. Erb passed away. Described as a gentle, friendly, and caring person, who always lived by the motto, "Simple beginnings with great endings," Mr. Erb will be missed as a physical presence on campus, but his effect on students, both through his giving as an employee and a donor, live on through the community at large in perpetuity.