



REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS ZELINDA LEBOUTILLIER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Chester County Community Foundation accepts applications from selected nonprofit charitable causes for the **Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation**, a fund of the Chester County Community Foundation.

Proposals are due by Monday, March 30th. Upon review of the initial proposals, a site visit may be conducted of the finalists. Grants are typically awarded in May-June.

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

Grant applications should be submitted electronically by March 30th to grants@chescofc.org. The e-mail heading should read: Grant Proposal Submission- Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation

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, Grant Program Officer & Philanthropy Planning Officer
Chester County Community Foundation
28 West Market Street, West Chester, PA 19382
grants@chescofc.org | www.chescofc.org | (610) 696-8211



CHESTER COUNTY
community
FOUNDATION



ZELINDA LEBOUTILLIER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

I. SUMMARY SHEET

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

Date: 3/28/2026

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Bethesda Project
Address: 1630 South Street
Contact E-mail: estern@bethesdaproject.org
Phone: 215-985-1600 x203
Web Address: www.bethesdaproject.org

Contact Name: Emma Stern
Contact Title: Director of Development
Fax:
Year Incorporated: 1979

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 (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County municipalities served):
Philadelphia

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served:
Bethesda Project serves over 1,200 adults experiencing homelessness annually.

Mission Statement:
Bethesda Project's mission is "to be family with those who have none."

Organization Description:
Since 1979, Bethesda Project has been providing emergency shelter, housing and supportive services for thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia. By offering a home and safe environment at each of its 11 sites throughout Philadelphia, adults experiencing homelessness can stabilize and regain their dignity and self-worth. From outreach and engagement to emergency shelters to housing residences with supportive services, its locations create a Housing First continuum of care for Philadelphia's most vulnerable. At Bethesda Project, we meet people where they are, providing case management to help them achieve their highest personal potential. Now, over 46 years since its inception, Bethesda Project remains committed to its initial calling, to be family with those who have none.

Annual Budget \$6,793,140 ___80___ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff



85.2 % of budget for program expenses	___19___ # of Board Volunteers
9.2 % of budget for administrative expenses	___2,575___ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
5.6 % of budget for fundraising expenses	___8,897___ # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total	

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Government:

Office of Homeless Services
Department of Behavioral Health
US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

Foundation:

MKM Foundation
Connelly Foundation
Phillies Charities

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$1,500

Summary Description of Grant Purpose: An award from the Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation would support general operating expenses required to operate 11 sites of shelter and housing for adults who currently and formally have experienced homelessness.



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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**
- 2. Funding request:**
 - A. Specific Chester County needs and issues addressed**
 - B. Organizational impact (for general operating proposals) or project impact (for project proposals)**
 - C. Overall strategies to implement the organization's mission (or project)**
 - D. Why it is important to fund this now**
- 3. Timetable, with anticipated outcomes and their relevance to the nonprofit's mission**
- 4. How impact and results will be demonstrated**

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 to obtain an electronic version of this application. E-mail applications are strongly encouraged.

Please e-mail completed applications to:
Stephenie Stevens, Grant Program Officer & Philanthropy Planning Officer
Chester County Community Foundation
28 West Market Street, West Chester, PA 19382
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THANK YOU!



**ZELINDA
LEBOUTILLIER
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**

Mission...

The Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation makes grants to charities that were near and dear to Linda's heart.

About Zelinda...

Zelinda LeBoutillier, CEO of Waterloo Gardens, was the only daughter of James and Anna Paolini of Devon, who founded Waterloo Gardens in 1942. Zelinda married Robert (Bo) LeBoutillier, former President and CEO of Waterloo Gardens, in 1951. They had shared 49 years of marriage at the time of his passing in October of 2001.

Though Zelinda served on many boards and contributed to the community in many ways, what she was really known for was her generous heart. She was called "Mama Linda" affectionately by many because she was truly a mother to all. At Waterloo Gardens, she founded The Cooking School, which operated from 1980-1985. She also wrote a cookbook,

Cooking with Fresh Herbs.

Zelinda was very involved in the management of Waterloo Gardens including purchasing, hiring, and marketing. She was the first woman chosen to serve on the Retailer Magazine panel. Zelinda traveled the country speaking to Nursery and Garden Center Associations on marketing in the industry. She also served on the Board of the Pennsylvania Nursery Association and was a very active member of the Marketing Committee.

The Wall Street Journal quoted Zelinda on the first page with regard to industry market trends. Zelinda LeBoutillier is listed in the 1990 edition of **Who's Who in American Executives**.

Zelinda was an active philanthropist. She received the Harold Martin Leadership Award from the Exton Chamber of Commerce in 2007. She also received the 2005 Citizen of the Year Award from the Berwyn-Devon Business and Professional Association. Boards Zelinda served on include: ALS Hope Foundation, Cabrini College, Bishop Shanahan High School, and Williamson School. She was the State Chairperson for The American Family Institute: Gift of Time and the West Whiteland Chairperson for the American Heart Foundation.

Community was very important to Zelinda. She was a Girl Scout Leader for 10 years and served on the Board of Freedom Valley Girl Scouts. She was also Treasurer of Daylesford Abbey Woman's Guild and President of Sts. Philip and James Mothers' Club. Zelinda was very active in the Calvary Fellowship Church. She joined the Ventures Group and supported many mission trips and local community events to help children.



*A Caring Family for
Philadelphia's Homeless*

Bethesda Project Proposal to the Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation

March 2026

Bethesda Project operates 11 sites of shelter and housing in and around Center City Philadelphia, serving over 1,200 individuals experiencing homelessness annually. The organization offers entry-level programs (street outreach, church shelters, Safe Haven), emergency shelter, and supportive housing. These programs include case management services to help individuals overcome personal challenges, and Community Life activities that facilitate the creation of caring communities at each program site.

A grant from the Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation will directly help Bethesda Project to continue being a caring family for Philadelphia's vulnerable citizens by funding critical case management services and Community Life Activities. These are vital components of our service-delivery model and truly make the difference in helping our shelter guests and housing residents achieve successes in building self-sufficiency and realizing self-worth. It is this personalized, trusting, and compassionate level of care that catalyzes change and promotes opportunity for those living in the margins of society. This proposal describes Bethesda Project's background, programs and impact.

Organization History & Mission:

Bethesda Project began in 1979 when Reverend Domenic Rossi and members of his prayer group reached out to a group of women experiencing homelessness in Center City Philadelphia. Three years later, Bethesda Project bought a house at 11th and Spruce Streets, which became a permanent home for formerly homeless women. Bethesda Project became a registered non-profit and began to expand its programming, including more housing sites in the city and expanding our services free of any religious affiliation. Because we have learned that each individual experiencing homelessness has a unique story and unique challenges, the organization's locations and services are tailored to meet different sets of needs. From emergency shelters to permanent supportive housing residences, Bethesda Project's locations create a "continuum of care."

Who Bethesda Project Serves:

For more than four decades, Bethesda Project has witnessed the complex realities that lead people into homelessness. While circumstances such as job loss, family disruption, or incarceration can play a role, chronic homelessness among our guests and residents is most often linked to mental illness, substance use disorders, and serious medical conditions.

These challenges are compounded by Philadelphia's severe shortage of affordable housing and by systemic barriers tied to race, class, and mental health. The City's 2025 Point-in-Time Count reported 5,516 individuals experienced homelessness, an increase from the prior year, including 1,178 people living unsheltered in places not meant for human habitation. This surge underscores the urgent need for a strong continuum of care.

Each year, more than 1,200 individuals turn to Bethesda Project for support. Among them, 65% live with serious medical conditions, 60% with mental illness, 45% with substance use histories, 31% are age 60 or older, and 30% are dually diagnosed. Demographically, our community is 68% Black, 21% White, 11% Hispanic, <1% Asian, with 4% identifying as women and 95% as men.

Bethesda Project's Approach:



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Bethesda Project is committed to evidence-based, recovery-oriented care for Philadelphia's most vulnerable, chronically homeless adults. Guided by the six core values of social work—service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence—our staff receive ongoing training to ensure best practices in service delivery.

We follow a **Housing First, client-centered, trauma-informed model** that removes barriers to housing and emphasizes individualized support. Each resident works with a case manager to create a personalized care plan, using harm reduction to address goals around health, recovery, and independence. This approach has proven effective: more than **91% of residents remain in supportive housing for one year or longer**, and staff dedicate over **200 hours annually** to connecting individuals with employment, income supports, and other stabilizing resources.

Bethesda Project's guests and residents receive personalized, caring attention, and are encouraged to achieve the most independent level of housing possible. Staff work with guests and residents to set achievable, realistic goals appropriate to each individual, utilizing a three-pronged approach.

Shelter and Housing: To stabilize single adults who are experiencing homelessness and help them find and remain in affordable housing that meets their personal needs within the most independent setting possible.

Case Management and Supportive Services: To provide case management and follow-up support to help people progress in their efforts to secure a reliable income and manage mental illness, medical conditions, and substance use disorders.

Community Life Activities: Bethesda Project's mission embodies a belief in the power of positive relationships among shelter guests, residents, staff, and volunteers to help people heal from the alienation of homelessness and become valued members of a caring community. Volunteers prepare and deliver meals, assist with facilities improvements, take residents to appointments and celebrate milestones together as one compassionate family.

Bethesda Project is fortunate to have longstanding partnerships with a variety of nonprofit service providers, local government agencies, and for-profit partners in the community. As an organization, Bethesda Project formally collaborates with several other social service providers to ensure the best access to services for our residents. The organization operates Connelly House in partnership with Project HOME, and partners with Trinity Memorial Church for year-round shelter. We rely on the support of generous partners who help us acquire necessary operating supplies, assist in sharing our mission, and contribute financially. Some examples include in-kind donations from organizations and businesses such as: Caring for Friends (providing weekly food pick-ups), Shelter Health Outreach Program (SHOP) at the University of Pennsylvania (providing health screenings and educational programming), International Raw Materials (providing in-kind IT services for the organization), and OUTFRONT Media (providing free advertising via billboards throughout the region). Bethesda Project's Case Managers also refer residents and guests to an array of agencies and providers around the city who can best address their social service needs.

Bethesda Project's goals and objectives are best summarized by its mission statement, "to find and care for the abandoned poor and to be family with those who have none." Every decision Bethesda Project makes is an effort to enact the organization's mission, and our dedication to that mission is expressed by staff at every level. From outreach staff engaging chronically homeless individuals on the streets in the winter, to housing residents in apartments directly



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over Bethesda Project's administrative office, the organization strives to take every opportunity to reach out to those in need.

Bethesda Project's Programming:

Bethesda Project operates 11 locations in Center City Philadelphia. Each site is designed for adults with specific sets of needs, and each Case Manager personalizes their work to best meet individual challenges. Guests and residents may stay at a Bethesda Project site for a few nights or for years, depending on their needs. The following is a brief description of each program goal.

ENTRY-LEVEL PROGRAMS

Goal: Engagement with vulnerable individuals who are street homeless to build trusting relationships and meet their most basic needs utilizing a Harm Reduction approach.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Goal: Connecting guests who are episodically homeless to resources, moving them to stable housing, and ending housing crises quickly at our 149-bed shelter.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Goal: Maintaining long-term residential housing stability through case management and supportive services.

Impact/Evaluation:

Bethesda Project measures success through individualized care plans developed with case managers, recognizing that each person defines progress differently. For some, success means securing employment and moving into permanent housing; for others, it may be managing medical appointments or mental health more independently. Case managers help residents set and achieve goals in three key areas: residential stability, increased skills and income, and greater self-determination. Progress is tracked in a centralized database, with case managers entering updates, Program Coordinators monitoring and reporting monthly to Directors, and Directors sharing outcomes with the Board.

We also gather feedback directly from residents and shelter guests through an annual Family Spirit Survey, using these results to strengthen program quality and improve service delivery. Beyond individual outcomes, success is reflected in the strength of our housing communities. Our Community Life department fosters connection through events, volunteer engagement, and support for healthy interpersonal dynamics. Staff promote resident pride by maintaining clean, welcoming facilities, while residents' growing independence and self-sufficiency demonstrate the deeper impact of our work.

Conclusion:

Bethesda Project approaches its mission with passion, competence, and genuine care and concern. A key strength of this approach lies in the breadth and depth of the services that the organization offers. Bethesda Project understands that recovery from homelessness operates on a spectrum and that diverse services must be provided to meet men and women "where they are." The organization helps adults achieve more than 200 positive housing moves each year. Bethesda Project's success is driven by the staff's ability to be tenacious in building positive relationships with those most reluctant to enter shelter. It is through this level of trust that Bethesda Project catalyzes change.



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Over its 46-year history, Bethesda Project has learned that building trusting relationships with vulnerable individuals requires perseverance and significant material, human, and financial resources. Each gift made to the organization improves the lives of someone living in poverty, surrounding them with a caring community and empowering them, with a dignified support system, to realize their goals. **While the demand for and cost of services continues to increase, our reliance on charitable contributions also increases.** A \$1,500 general operating grant from the Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation will help Bethesda Project continue to find and care for the abandoned poor and to be family with those who have none.