



I. 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 4/7/2026

Contact Information

Organization Name: Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.	ED/CEO Name: Tim Compton
Address: 1685 Art School Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425	ED/CEO E-mail: tcompton@yellowsprings.org
Phone: (610) 827-7414, ext. 14	Board Chair Name: Matt Brady
Website: www.yellowsprings.org	Board Chair Approval (check here): <input style="width: 40px; text-align: center;" type="checkbox" value="X"/>
Year Incorporated: 1974	Primary Contact Name: Tim Compton
FEIN: Primary Contact E-mail: 23-1920704	tcompton@yellowsprings.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: The mission of Historic Yellow Springs is to share, preserve, and celebrate the unique living village of Yellow Springs. With a focus on history, art, education and the environment, Historic Yellow Springs enriches the lives of all who visit.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): **Northern Chester County**

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served. (Include Chester County # &/or % served.) **35,140 in 2025 with about 85% from Chester county and the other 15% from neighboring counties and the greater Philadelphia area**

Annual Budget \$ 1,582,226 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff 8

79 % of budget for program expenses # of Board Volunteers 12

17 % of budget for administrative expenses # of Active Non-Board Volunteers 120

04 % of budget for fundraising expenses # of Volunteer Hours 1500

100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

This grant proposal is for: ___ Direct Service Programs & General Operating &/or X Capacity Building

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

	Contingency Planning		Partnerships, Collaborations		Merger, Closure
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mission, Vision, Strategy		Board Engagement & Leadership		Marketing, Communication
	Resource Development		Operations		Technology
	If other, please describe:				

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 12,000

Proposal Summary: (a few sentences, please)

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

- a. Historic Yellow Springs is expanding its community impact by thinking of the three arms of its mission collectively. By developing new programs and adapting popular and signature events to be more encompassing of our broad focus, we are creating more unique experiences that appeal to a broader audience and is drawing in new partners and opportunities. In the past year we have doubled our program capacity opening new spaces for veteran programming, homeschool initiatives, school partnerships, and community classroom opportunities. New initiatives like scholarships have decreased barriers to entry and successfully opened doors to new participants.

2. Funding request

- **What specific needs & issues are being addressed, via what programs and services?**
 - Despite our exciting growth and successful expansion of programming and engagement, we have done it up to this point without a clear strategic plan. New movement and development of a long-standing board, new pursuits of funding, and new partnerships have the opportunity to create stagnation and confusion without clear understanding and buy in at the highest levels of the organization.
- **Why is it important to fund this now?**
 - Recent wins in programming and community engagement have increased the pace of opportunity across the organization. More engagement and community participation have brought more funders and more community partners to the table. Without a clear plan in place soon, there is opportunity for these new ventures to pull the organization in unintended directions. If this happens, trust is lost and a reactionary approach to growth can quickly stall progress. A clear strategic vision is needed to ensure growth remains intentional and aligned with organizational values.
- **How will results & impact be demonstrated?**
 - Results will be demonstrated with the adoption and implementation of a new three-year strategic plan in the 2027 calendar year. This new strategic plan will work in tandem with a new campus master plan and ADA access plan to ensure decision making at every level is considering the larger long-term implications. This level of forward thinking will result in more proactive planning by the board and staff while better meeting the expressed needs of our community.
- **Additionally, for capacity building grant proposals:**
 - **How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?**
 - A three-year strategic plan is a critical capacity-building initiative for Historic Yellow Springs because it strengthens the internal systems, decision-making processes, and unifies long-term objectives while aligning the mission with clear, actionable goals. By translating the organizations work in historic preservation, arts programming, and environmental stewardship into measurable priorities, the plan creates organizational clarity and improves efficiency across staff, volunteers, and leadership. Additionally, a clear plan establishes a framework for financial sustainability by guiding fundraising strategies, supporting stronger grant applications, and aligning resources with mission-driven outcomes, while also enhancing credibility with

institutional partners, schools, and funders. Over time, this investment will enable Historic Yellow Springs to expand high-demand programs, develop new initiatives such as residencies and interpretive projects, and deepen community engagement through increased access and participation. Ultimately, the strategic plan shifts the organization from reactive to proactive operations, ensuring it has the structure, data, and vision necessary to grow responsibly and amplify its cultural and educational impact.

- **How will this impact be demonstrated?**
 - Impact will be demonstrated through a structured and transparent evaluation systems that tracks both organizational progress and community response. Key stakeholders, including board members, staff, volunteers, and committee representatives, will participate in regularly scheduled check-ins using a shared, web-based tool to assess progress toward strategic goals, measure outcomes, and identify opportunities for adjustment or growth. Public-facing surveys will be implemented and expanded to capture feedback from event attendees, students, and visitors, helping to gauge community perception and engagement over time. In addition, quantitative data such as program registration numbers and door counter metrics will provide clear, measurable evidence of increased participation and organizational growth. Together, these tools will ensure that impact is consistently monitored, documented, and 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.**
 - The initiative consists of a six-month strategic planning process led by Catalyst Center for Nonprofit Management, including document review, governance training, a board-led visioning session, staff interviews, and a series of working sessions to define goals, metrics, and a detailed implementation plan. Final deliverables include a strategic framework, executive summary, and follow-up evaluation. The anticipated total cost is \$14,500, covering all consulting, materials, travel, and facilitation by senior consultant Elizabeth Vibber, an expert in nonprofit strategy and governance.

III. ATTACHMENTS

Email this support information. If it is on your website, please provide the URL.

1. Copy of **501 (c) (3)** federal tax-exempt letter
 2. List of **Board** of Directors, with their affiliations **URL:**
 3. Most recent **annual report URL:**
 4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement URL:**
 5. Itemized **organizational operating budget** with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
 6. If capacity building initiative, **itemized budget** (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable)
 7. Current **strategic plan**. If your nonprofit does **not** have a current strategic plan, **explain why**.
- Visit our website to learn more at www.chescocf.org
 - Proposals are only accepted electronically: <https://chescocf.org/receive/apply-for-grants/>
 - **Email proposals to grants@chescocf.org**
 - Proposals are considered "complete" when CCCF has **confirmed** receipt of the **Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative & Attachments**.
 - Proposals are shared electronically and online with Fund Advisors, Donors & Grant Panels.
 - Per IRS Regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax-exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification & cannot be individuals.

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

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



CAPACITY BUILDING FOR NONPROFITS: Coping with Cutbacks



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@chescofc.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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