



# I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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**Date 6/8/26**

## Contact Information

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**Year Incorporated:** 2009  
**FEIN:** 46-3277499

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## Organization Information:

**Field/s of Interest:** Human Services and Youth Development

**Mission:** The Coatesville Youth Initiative (CYI) is an independent non-profit organization committed to youth-led, transformational community change. We train youth leaders, enhance family relationships, encourage prevention education, and build community collaboration.

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

Greater Coatesville Area and the Coatesville Area School District.

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:** The Coatesville Youth Initiative (CYI) serves youth ages 12-18 and their families throughout the Coatesville Area School District, with a focus on individuals experiencing economic hardship, limited access to opportunities, and other barriers to success. Annually, CYI directly serves approximately 500 youth and engages approximately 1,600 youth and parents through workforce development, leadership, prevention, mental health, family engagement, and community-based programs

**Annual Budget** \$964,654

58.6% of budget for program expenses

22.7% of budget for administrative expenses

18.7% of budget for fundraising expenses

100% = total

6 Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

12 Board Volunteers

50+ Active Non-Board Volunteers

50+ Volunteer Hours

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** Claneil Foundation, Nelson Foundation & Alliance for Health Equity

**This grant proposal is for:** X Direct Service Programs & General Operating

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$10,000

**Proposal Summary:** The Coatesville Youth Initiative (CYI) is a youth development and community prevention leader, engaging about 1,600 youth and parents annually in Greater Coatesville. Through programs on workforce, leadership, prevention, mental health, family, and community, CYI helps youth build skills, relationships, and opportunities for success. Its approach combines services with coalition work to improve youth outcomes and support systems. In three years, CYI facilitated over 29,000 interactions between youth and the community, fostering a healthier, safer, and more connected community.



## **COATESVILLE YOUTH INITIATIVE GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT REQUEST – CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FUND**

### **Organizational Overview, Overall Aims, Key Initiatives, and Distinctiveness**

The Coatesville Youth Initiative (CYI) serves as both a youth development organization and a community prevention system for Greater Coatesville, including the City of Coatesville, South Coatesville, Modena, and the broader Coatesville Area School District.

CYI believes that young people are most likely to thrive when they are connected to supportive relationships, meaningful opportunities, and positive community environments. Rather than focusing on a single issue or program, CYI works across multiple areas that influence youth success, including youth development, prevention, workforce readiness, leadership development, mental health support, family engagement, and community collaboration.

What distinguishes CYI is its dual role as both a direct-service provider and a community leader. Through direct engagement with youth and families, CYI helps young people build skills, confidence, resilience, leadership capacity, and pathways to future success. Through coalition leadership, community partnerships, and data-informed prevention strategies, CYI works to strengthen the broader conditions that influence youth outcomes throughout the region.

Since 2009, CYI has served as a trusted youth development and prevention partner in Greater Coatesville, working alongside schools, families, employers, nonprofits, public agencies, and community leaders to expand opportunities for youth and strengthen the systems that support them.

Each year, CYI engages approximately 1,600 youth and parents through a continuum of opportunities designed to increase connection, belonging, resilience, leadership, and access to opportunity. Programs such as ServiceCorps, Youth Council, Teen Night, Moms Café, violence prevention initiatives, mental health supports, and workforce development experiences are not standalone activities. They function as interconnected strategies within a broader prevention framework designed to improve youth outcomes while strengthening the community systems that support them.

CYI's overall aim is to help young people successfully transition into adulthood by strengthening the relationships, opportunities, supports, and community conditions that contribute to long-term success.

### **To achieve this goal, CYI's work is organized around five interconnected pillars:**

1. **Youth Development** - Helping youth build confidence, leadership skills, decision-making abilities, and positive relationships.
2. **Prevention** - Reducing challenges before they become crises through proactive engagement, violence prevention, substance use prevention, mental health supports, and positive youth development opportunities.

3. **Connection and Belonging** - Creating opportunities for youth and families to build supportive relationships and meaningful community connections.
4. **Opportunity Pathways** - Connecting youth to workforce experiences, leadership opportunities, civic engagement, education, and future career pathways.
5. **Community Collaboration** - Convening schools, employers, nonprofits, public agencies, faith communities, families, and residents around shared goals for youth success.

### **Funding Request, Community Need, and Why It Matters Now**

CYI respectfully requests general operating support to sustain and strengthen the organizational infrastructure required to operate an effective youth development and community prevention system. This support enables CYI to respond to the evolving needs of youth and families while maintaining the partnerships, leadership, coordination, and organizational capacity necessary to create lasting community impact.

Although Chester County is often viewed as one of Pennsylvania's most affluent counties, many families in Greater Coatesville face significant economic challenges. Approximately 57% of Coatesville Area School District students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, and many local households fall within the ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) population, meaning families are working but continue to struggle with basic necessities such as housing, transportation, food, and healthcare.

At the same time, local data highlights the importance of creating meaningful opportunities for youth engagement and leadership. According to the 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey, approximately half of Coatesville high school students reported having limited opportunities to help shape school activities and decisions, underscoring the need for stronger youth voice, leadership development, and meaningful participation in community life.

These challenges are interconnected. Young people who lack access to supportive relationships, meaningful opportunities, leadership experiences, workforce exposure, and positive community connections are more vulnerable to disengagement from school, community institutions, and pathways to future success.

CYI addresses these needs through workforce development programs such as ServiceCorps, leadership initiatives such as Game Changers Youth Council, prevention and wellness programming, family engagement opportunities, and community-wide collaboration efforts that strengthen support for youth and families. Addressing these issues requires more than isolated programs. It requires a trusted organization capable of engaging young people directly, convening community partners, identifying emerging needs, and coordinating prevention-focused responses that strengthen both youth and the environments in which they live.

The importance of funding this work now is clear. Schools, families, employers, nonprofits, and community leaders increasingly rely on CYI to provide opportunities for youth, coordinate prevention efforts, strengthen partnerships, and respond to emerging community needs. At a time when many funding sources are increasingly restricted to specific programs, flexible operating support is especially valuable because it allows CYI to sustain the staff leadership, partnership development, coalition coordination, evaluation systems, and organizational capacity that make effective community-wide prevention and youth development possible.

As youth needs continue to grow and funding becomes increasingly restricted, flexible support is critical to sustaining the infrastructure that allows CYI to respond effectively.

## **Key Achievements, Results, and Demonstrated Outcomes**

CYI's integrated approach consistently produces measurable results for youth, families, and the broader community. Each year, approximately 1,600 youth and parents participate in CYI programs, services, and community initiatives designed to strengthen protective factors, increase opportunity, and support positive youth development.

ServiceCorps, CYI's flagship workforce development initiative, demonstrates particularly strong outcomes. During the summer of 2025:

- 100% of the youth participating returned to school.
- 98% avoided justice-system involvement.
- 64% continued participating in additional CYI programs after completing the program.

Across programs, youth report increased confidence, stronger relationships with supportive adults, improved leadership and workforce skills, greater community engagement, and expanded awareness of future educational and career opportunities.

CYI's collaborative approach also produces community-level results. Through coalition leadership and partnership development, CYI strengthens coordination among schools, nonprofits, employers, government agencies, faith communities, families, and residents. This coordination improves resource alignment, reduces duplication of effort, and increases the community's capacity to respond proactively to youth needs.

## **Long-Term Impact**

The impact of CYI extends well beyond any individual program, event, or participant.

By simultaneously strengthening youth outcomes and the broader community systems that support young people, CYI contributes to a healthier, safer, and more resilient Greater Coatesville. Youth are better positioned to succeed academically, socially, and professionally. Families become more connected to resources and support networks. Community organizations work more collaboratively toward shared goals. Employers, schools, nonprofits, and residents become active partners in creating opportunities for young people.

Over the past three years, CYI's efforts have contributed to more than 29,000 youth and community touchpoints, reflecting both the breadth of the organization's reach and the depth of its community partnerships.

CYI demonstrates impact through participation tracking, outcome measurement, program evaluations, youth surveys, partner feedback, and community collaboration metrics. These measures support continuous improvement while documenting CYI's contribution to youth success and community well-being.

An investment in CYI is an investment in relationships, opportunities, partnerships, and community infrastructure that help young people thrive. General operating support enables CYI to continue serving as both a direct service provider and a community prevention leader, ensuring that youth throughout Greater Coatesville have the support, connections, and opportunities they need to build successful futures.