



I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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

Date: 4/9/26

Contact Information

Organization Name: Brandywine Valley Active Aging
 Address: 250 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Coatesville
 Phone: 610-383-6900
 Website: www.bvactiveaging.org
 Year Incorporated: 1978
 FEIN: 23-2040210

ED/CEO Name: Bill Pierce
 ED/CEO E-mail: bill@bvactiveaging.org
 Board Chair Name: Nick Hoffman
 Board Chair Approval (check here):
 Primary Contact Name: Bill Pierce
 Primary Contact E-mail: bill@bvactiveaging.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: To enrich the lives of older adults living within our community by providing services that enhance the dignity and quality of their lives.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): Though our physical locations are situated in the communities of Coatesville, Downingtown, and Phoenixville (starting 7/1/26), Brandywine Valley Active Aging uniquely offers programs and services throughout Chester County.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served. (Include Chester County # &/or % served.) We serve a diverse senior population that is 75% low income and 35% housing insecure. After merging with the Phoenixville Center, we expect to serve over 3,000 individuals annually. At that time, Brandywine Valley Active Aging will hold 50% of the physical senior center locations in Chester County and will be responsible for providing nearly 80% of all senior center services in the county.

Annual Budget \$1,937,193

84 % of budget for program expenses

11 % of budget for administrative expenses

5 % of budget for fundraising expenses

100% = total

17 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

14 # of Board Volunteers

70 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

5,000 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: Chester County Department of Aging, Chester County Department of Community Development, PA Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund, National Council on Aging, United Way of Chester County, Philadelphia Foundation

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

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

Proposal Summary: *(a few sentences, please)* Funding will support Brandywine Valley Active Aging's Food Security program, which provides older adults in Chester County with nutritious congregate meals, supplemental food assistance, and support enrolling in nutrition benefits. The program reduces food insecurity while promoting health, independence, and social connection among vulnerable seniors.

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

Brandywine Valley Active Aging (BVAA) is a Chester County nonprofit with a mission to enrich the lives of older adults living within our community by providing services that enhance the dignity and quality of their lives. BVAA was formed in January 2021 through the merger of two long-standing community institutions: the Downingtown Area Senior Center (founded in 1974) and the Coatesville Area Senior Center (founded in 1977).

Building on this successful partnership, BVAA and the Phoenixville Area Senior Center have agreed to move forward with a second merger, effective July 1, 2026. This expansion will establish the Phoenixville Center as BVAA's third campus and position BVAA as a leading provider of senior services in Chester County, operating 50% of the county's senior center locations and delivering nearly 80% of all senior center services. This merger will reduce administrative duplication, expand programmatic capacity, and strengthen a coordinated network of support for older adults across the county.

To further strengthen long-term sustainability, in May of 2025, BVAA launched the Aging Elevated Capital Campaign, a \$2 million initiative to establish a permanent home for our Downingtown campus and modernize service delivery. The new facility, which opened last November, includes four commercial tenants whose lease revenue fully covers the building's operating costs, allowing philanthropic and program funding to be directed toward services rather than facilities.

Currently, BVAA's campuses in Coatesville and Downingtown provide programs and services to over 2,000 adults, primarily aged 50 and older, many of whom face economic, health, and social challenges. After the Phoenixville merger, we expect to serve over 3,000 older adults annually.

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?**

According to the U.S. Census, by 2030, 1 in 5 Americans will be age 65 or older, increasing demand for programs that address social determinants of health, such as food security, economic stability, access to healthcare, and social connection. These interconnected determinants can account for 80% of an individual's overall health and well-being, with older adults being an especially vulnerable population.

Food insecurity is one of the most pressing challenges facing older adults. According to a 2021 report by Feeding America, rates of food insecurity among seniors have increased significantly over the past two decades, with a 90% increase in the senior population classified as having very low food security. Food insecurity is also more common among women, people without a spouse or partner, and those with chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or depression. Based on this information, we can extrapolate that nearly 60% of BVAA's participants are food insecure or at risk for food insecurity.

The current economic climate further compounds these challenges. Rising grocery prices, increased housing and utility costs, and broader economic uncertainty have placed additional strain on older adults living on fixed incomes. More than 17% of BVAA participants live in poverty, compared to approximately 10% of adults aged 60 and older nationwide (U.S. Census).

BVAA offers comprehensive, holistic programming to address the needs of older adults in Chester County, including:

Information and Assistance

BVAA's Community Resource Navigators (CRNs) work closely with approximately 1,000 older adults to provide ongoing case management, with the goal of helping individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency. In addition, Housing Case Managers provide intensive support to older adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, helping them to stabilize and remain safely housed.

BVAA responds to 10,000–12,000 requests for information and referrals each year.

Health and Wellness

BVAA provides structured, evidence-based group exercise programming that has been demonstrated to help older adults improve or maintain their functional fitness or activities of daily living (also called ADLs). Increased physical activity and engagement in movement classes allow older adults to “age in place,” reducing admissions to acute care and long-term care facilities. We also offer educational wellness programs to assist participants with behavioral health, chronic disease management, and other wellness issues affecting older adults.

Annually, we provide 750+ hours of free physical activity and wellness classes.

Continued Learning and Connection

Cognitive decline was once thought to be an inevitable part of aging, but scientists now know that the brain continually adapts, even in older adults. BVAA provides daily meaningful opportunities to stay mentally engaged, socially connected, and creatively fulfilled. Participants can explore artistic outlets and improve dexterity through visual arts programming and crafting, or join in educational programs spanning topics such as science, history, psychology, language, music, and the arts. Just as physical exercise strengthens the body, continued learning opportunities help maintain cognitive strength and slow decline. We also offer fun social activities to foster connection both with peers and community leaders.

Food Security

BVAA's Food Security program is our largest and most utilized program. There are three primary components to the program, all addressing food insecurity in our vulnerable senior population:

- *Meals:* Our congregate meal program is the cornerstone of our food security efforts, providing daily breakfast and lunch with meaningful opportunities for social connection. Each month, we serve more than 1,000 breakfasts and 5,000 lunches to approximately 400 unduplicated individuals.

- *Food Assistance:* To further assist older adults with food insecurity, we partner with the Chester County Food Bank to distribute more than 25,000 pounds of fresh produce, dairy, and other groceries to nearly 500 individuals each month.
- *Supplemental Programs:* We also help vulnerable older adults enroll in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides nutrition benefits to income-qualifying individuals and families, allowing them to purchase healthy foods and work toward self-sufficiency. According to Pennsylvania's Governor's Food Security Partnership Report, only 43.5% of eligible older adults in the commonwealth receive SNAP benefits.

Food insecurity among older adults is a growing public health concern. Research shows that seniors experiencing food insecurity are more likely to have diabetes, hypertension, and depression, and are at greater risk of hospitalization, as they struggle to access healthy food. Compounding these challenges, many older adults face mobility limitations, lack access to reliable transportation, or live alone, often limiting their ability to shop for or prepare balanced meals.

The seniors we serve are also significantly affected by social isolation, which increases the risk of heart disease and stroke by 25–30%, dementia by 50%, and premature death by 60%, according to the U.S. Surgeon General. Our Food Security program is one of the most effective entry points for broader engagement, as a large percentage of meal participants also join other BVAA activities.

Demand for these services continues to rise as the senior population grows and economic pressures increase. At the same time, reductions in funding have placed a strain on BVAA's ability to meet this growing need. Funding is critical at this moment to sustain and expand access to essential nutrition services, ensuring that older adults in Chester County remain healthy and able to age in place.

BVAA measures program success through a combination of quantitative and outcome-based indicators, with data collected through client intake, assessments, and ongoing tracking in our CRM system.

Quantitative metrics include:

- Number of individuals served
- Number of meals provided
- Program participation, retention, and growth

Outcome-based metrics include:

- Improved self-reported health indicators
- Increased social engagement and reduced isolation
- Better management of chronic conditions through improved nutrition
- Greater financial stability through access to supplemental food and benefits

These metrics demonstrate both the scale of services provided and the meaningful impact of the program on health, stability, connection, and overall quality of life.

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:** www.bvactiveaging.org/who-we-are/our-board
 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@chescocf.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@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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