

GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES as of 10.1.25

Direct Service Programs & General Operations

No deadline for DAF proposals.
Deadlines announced thru the year
for Directed Funds.

- ◇ Grants **focus on Chester County** causes & issues; but are not limited to Chester County.
 - ◇ Charitable nonprofits working in **all fields of interest** are considered, such as:
 - Arts, Culture, Heritage
 - Education, Libraries
 - Environment, Animals
 - Health
 - Human Services
 - Social Justice, Civic Engagement
 - ◇ **General operating** grants are encouraged. Clear, succinct, compelling descriptions are appreciated: mission, aims, results & impact.
 - ◇ Nonprofits with **higher GuideStar ratings** receive stronger consideration. Update yours for free at <https://www.guidestar.org/>
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- ◇ Proposals can be submitted **anytime all year**.
 - ◇ Grant decisions are made **intermittently** all year, as Fund Advisors desire.
 - ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$2,500-\$10,000**.

Capacity Building: Coping with Cutbacks

No deadline.
Proposals accepted anytime.
Reviewed 15th bi-monthly.

- ◇ Nonprofits must be **located in & primarily serve Chester County**.
 - ◇ Nonprofit annual **budget** must be **\$1M or less**.
 - ◇ The goal of capacity building grants is to **strengthen organizational ability to effectively achieve mission and become more sustainable** over time. Priority will be given to proposals that help nonprofits shift their paradigms to cope with challenges and changes. Areas of focus include:
 - **Scenario & Contingency Planning**
 - **Financial Modeling**
 - **Partnerships, Collaborations**
 - **Merger**
 - **Closure**
 - **Resource Development, Revenue Diversification**
 - Mission, Vision, Strategy
 - Board Engagement, Leadership
 - Marketing & Communication
 - Operations
 - Technology
 - ◇ Proposals can be submitted **anytime all year**.
 - ◇ Proposals are reviewed the 15th bi-monthly.
 - ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$2,500-\$10,000**.
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As you are aware, there is ongoing uncertainty around federal and state funding that significantly impacts nonprofit organizations. The Community Foundation is committed to supporting a strong and resilient sector, and we encourage all organizations to be proactive in their planning.

We strongly encourage every nonprofit to engage in scenario planning, examine cash flow projections and assess funding risks. We have seen nonprofits explore a variety of pathways forward, such as adapting program design, reducing or merging operations and significantly diversifying revenue streams.

Please contact Kevin Baffa, Grant Administrator
at (610) 696-8211 or grants@chescocf.org with questions.

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

HOW ARE GRANT DECISIONS MADE AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

The Chester County Community Foundation **connects people who care with causes that matter**, so philanthropy makes a difference **now & forever**. With **400+ charitable funds** housed under one umbrella, a single proposal provides multiple pathways for nonprofits to be considered for funding. Nonprofits are encouraged to submit proposals **throughout the year**. Grant funds are awarded from multiple funding pools:

1. GRANTS FROM CCCF DONOR ADVISED FUNDS (DAFS)

- **Families and individuals** establish Donor Advised Funds—endowed charitable funds invested to provide a perpetual stream of earnings to fund nonprofit grants.
- Most DAF grants support **direct service programs and general operations**.
- DAF grant decisions are made independently by donors, sometimes with guidance from Community Foundation staff, and are awarded on a **rolling basis throughout the year**.

2. GRANTS FROM CCCF DESIGNATED ENTRUSTED FUNDS

- CCCF Designated Entrusted Funds are stewarded by volunteer grant panels and Community Foundation staff.
- We accept **Operating & Program Grants proposals year-round**; and from time-to-time issue special, focused Calls for Proposals as new funding becomes available.
- We accept **Capacity Building Grant Proposals year-round**; and from time-to-time issue Calls for Capacity Building Proposals as new funding becomes available. Capacity building grants are intended to strengthen the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of nonprofits serving Chester County.
- Grant panels review proposals and deliberate **monthly**.

DUE DILIGENCE

The Community Foundation is committed to making thoughtful, informed grantmaking decisions. To do so, our staff, donors, and grant panel volunteers:

- Review organizational and financial data via **GuideStar** (<https://www.guidestar.org>) and IRS Form 990.
- Review all submitted proposals, which are **publicly available** at <https://chescof.org/receive/find-active-grants/>.
- Conduct site visits, community research, and online research to better understand mission and impact.

Please note: In compliance with IRS regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations; funding cannot be awarded to individuals.

TO APPLY

- To learn more, visit www.chescof.org
- Proposals are only accepted electronically. The format is online at <https://chescof.org/receive/apply-for-grants/>
- **E-mail proposals to grants@chescof.org**
- Proposals are considered “complete” when CCCF has **confirmed** receipt of the **Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative & Attachments**. Budgets and financials are important. Please include them.
- Proposals are shared electronically and on-line with Fund Advisors, Donors & Grant Panels.

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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: June 30, 2026

Contact Information

Organization Name: Parkesburg POINT Youth Center
Address: 700 Main Street Parkesburg, PA 19365
Phone: 610-857-3393
Website: www.parkesburgpoint.com
Year Incorporated: 2003
FEIN: 03-0399261.

ED/CEO Name: Dwayne Walton
ED/CEO E-mail: Dwayne.Ed@parkesburgpoint.com
Board Chair Name: Tom Taylor
Board Chair Approval (check here): X
Primary Contact Name: Sarah Daniels
Primary Contact E-mail: sdaniels@parkesburgpoint.com

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

	Arts, Culture, Heritage	X	Education, Library		Environment, Animals
X	Health	X	Human Services		Social Justice, Civic Engagement
X	Religion	X	If other, please describe: Youth Development, Music, Recreation, STEM & Workforce Development.		

Mission: The Parkesburg Point Youth Center's (THE POINT) mission is to empower youth and their families to live victoriously by offering a safe, engaging, and Spirit-filled environment.

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

The Octorara and Coatesville Area School Districts.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served. (Include Chester County # &/or % served.)

THE POINT serves more than 975 at-risk youth in grades 2–12 annually through its out-of-school-time programs, with approximately 70% from the Octorara Area School District and 30% from Coatesville. Over 85% of participants live below the poverty line and face challenges such as housing instability, trauma, food insecurity, and academic barriers. THE POINT reaches an additional 4,000+ youth via daily school-based outreach on Octorara and Coatesville school campuses and via weekend sports tournaments and community outreach events.

Annual Budget \$2,071,821

70.4% of budget for program expenses

12.7% of budget for administrative expenses

16.9% of budget for fundraising expenses

100% = total

18FT/5PT # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

11 # of Board Volunteers

354 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

5,172 # of Volunteer Hour

Top 3-5 funding sources: Justamere Foundation, Pennsylvania Coalition of Crime Delinquency (PCCD), Nelson Foundation, Pilgrim Foundation, and Nuna Baby Essentials.

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

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

	Contingency Planning		Partnerships, Collaborations		Merger, Closure
	Mission, Vision, Strategy		Board Engagement & Leadership		Marketing, Communication
	Resource Development		Operations		Technology
	If other, please describe:				

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

Proposal Summary: *(a few sentences, please)*

THE POINT respectfully requests \$10,000 in general operating support. General operating support allows us to remain flexible during a pivotal season of growth and to direct funds where they are needed most—helping us serve over 975 at-risk students through out-of-school-time programs and more than 4,000 additional youth through school-based support and community outreach.

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

THE POINT was collaboratively founded in 2003 by local businesses, churches, and community leaders in the Borough of Parkesburg. Since its founding, THE POINT has developed innovative strategies to address the physical, academic, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of an ever-increasing number of youths.

After 10 years of renting a small warehouse, THE POINT launched a capital campaign from 2011 to 2013, resulting in the purchase of a 4.25-acre property in Parkesburg. Today, the site hosts a 22,000 sq. ft. community center featuring a full gymnasium, cafeteria, e-gaming center, ninja warrior obstacle course, art room, commercial kitchen, student chapel, boxing gym, trade-skills workshop, academic classrooms, music recording studio, outdoor skatepark and basketball court, and our community's local food cupboard. Most recently, THE POINT completed the addition of a STEM InnovationSpace.

Today, THE POINT operates free of charge five to seven afternoons and evenings each week, serving more than 975 youth annually in grades 2–12 through our core out-of-school-time programs. In addition, we reach over 4,000 youth through daily outreach across the Octorara and Coatesville Area School District campuses, as well as through community initiatives such as bookbag drives, meal distributions, sports tournaments, and motivational speaking events.

Supported by more than 350 dedicated volunteers and over 20 local churches, THE POINT delivers a holistic model of care designed to support and empower some of our community's most vulnerable youth.

Each program is designed around 5 core goals:

- Provide access to a safe and supportive environment.
- Empower students to develop leadership skills, confidence, and a positive identity.
- Encourage students to stay in school and set goals for post-secondary education or employment.
- Create access to activities, education, and resources that promote a healthy lifestyle.
- Foster students' spiritual exploration and development.

THE POINT's impact is demonstrated through strong student outcomes. In our most recent survey of core program participants, 86% reported increased academic motivation, 63% improved literacy skills, and 64% plan to enroll in college or technical school. Additionally, 92% reported increased confidence, 93% improved self-esteem, and 90% made new friends. Behavioral outcomes are equally compelling, with 76% of students getting in trouble less often, 90% avoiding alcohol and drugs, 90% avoiding skipping or dropping out of school, and 91% expressing increased interest in helping or serving others.

Beyond direct programming, THE POINT plays a vital role within local schools through its partnerships with the Octorara School District. According to recent surveys of teachers, administrators, and coaches, 76.4% report that THE POINT staff positively impact students, 80.2% say they improve students' mental health, and 70.8% say they help create a more conducive learning environment. Furthermore, 51.9% report reduced behavioral issues, 56.6% say staff helps prevent challenges from escalating, and 83% identify THE POINT as a valuable resource for the district.

This combination of direct service outcomes and measurable school-based impact distinguishes THE POINT as a trusted, community-centered organization uniquely positioned to support youth both inside and outside the classroom.

2. Funding request

• What specific needs & issues are being addressed, via what programs and services?

THE POINT serves a highly vulnerable population of youth facing significant economic, academic, and social-emotional challenges. Approximately 90% of students come from households below the poverty line, many from single-parent families, and a substantial number have experienced homelessness, food insecurity, trauma, or exposure to substance abuse. As a result, these young people are at heightened risk for school failure, dropout, mental health struggles, teen pregnancy, and involvement with drugs, alcohol, or the juvenile justice system.

Recent student survey data underscores the urgency of these needs: 12% of students report experiencing bullying at school, 10% feel unsafe, and 15% report feeling sad, hopeless, or depressed. Alarming, 4% of students have contemplated suicide, and 4% have attempted suicide. These challenges have intensified since the pandemic, with increasing levels of anxiety, social isolation, and behavioral difficulties.

THE POINT addresses these complex and interconnected needs through a comprehensive, year-round continuum of programs designed to support the whole child—academically, physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Programming is offered free of charge Monday–Thursday during the school year and summer, as well as through Friday and weekend activities, ensuring consistent access to safe and supportive environments during high-risk hours.

- **Academic Enrichment:** Supports students in improving grades, staying on track for graduation, and preparing for post-secondary education, with a strong emphasis on literacy and goal setting.
- **Hands-On Training & STEM:** Provides practical skills in trades (carpentry, plumbing, electrical), mechanics, and technology (robotics, 3D printing, PC building), building competence and career readiness.
- **Workforce Development & Entrepreneurship:** Teaches soft skills such as resume writing, interviewing, and problem-solving. The *Soap for Hope Youth Entrepreneur Program* engages, equips, and empowers students with real-world business and leadership experience.
- **Pathfinders Internships:** Offers paid internships and apprenticeships at THE POINT and within the community to build resumes and employability.
- **Scholarships:** Provide financial assistance for eligible students pursuing post-secondary education.
- **Meals & Nutrition:** Serves daily meals and provides food pantry support and grocery assistance through partnerships with 25+ local organizations.
- **Sports & Recreation:** Daily recreation (30–60 minutes), clinics, tournaments, and eSports to promote engagement and teamwork.
- **The Arts:** Creative outlets through music (choir, band, recording studio) and visual arts, allowing students to express themselves and develop talents.
- **On-Campus Support:** 8–10 staff members serve daily across Octorara and Coatesville schools, providing mentorship, crisis support, and relationship-building that improve student well-being, behavior, and academic focus.
- **Juvenile Detention Outreach:** Bi-monthly mentorship at Chester County Juvenile Detention Center, helping reduce recidivism and reconnect youth to positive support systems.
- **Tournaments & Events:** Year-round sports clinics and tournaments that combine competition with encouragement and positive messaging.
- **Crisis & Compassion Fund:** Provides financial assistance for families in crisis (housing, utilities, clothing, counseling, and more), helping stabilize students so they can thrive.

Together, these integrated programs address the root causes and day-to-day realities facing at-risk youth—providing not only immediate relief (food, safety, support), but also long-term pathways to academic success, emotional well-being, and productive, purpose-driven futures.

• **Why is it important to fund this now?**

General operating support is essential to THE POINT’s ability to remain responsive, consistent, and impactful as demand for our services continues to grow at an unprecedented pace. Over the past several years, we have expanded from serving 706 students in 2023 to 870 in 2024, 985 in 2025, and already 712 students midway through 2026. This growth reflects both the strength of our model and the increasing needs of youth and families in our community. Our reach extends beyond enrollment, with daily attendance exceeding 115 elementary students and monthly Girls’ Night’s drawing over 200 participants. At the same time, expanding partnerships with local school districts and the Chester County Youth Detention Center allows us to provide consistent support across school, community, and weekend settings. At the heart of this work is our deeply relational model, powered by staff—many of whom are alumni—whose shared lived experiences foster trust and authentic mentorship.

This expansion comes as external pressures intensify, with reductions in public resources and rising costs increasing strain on families and deepening reliance on organizations like THE POINT. As participation grows, so does the complexity of need—from mental health and literacy support for younger students to college, trade, and workforce pathways for older youth. To meet this demand, we have made critical investments in staffing, with a projected 2026 payroll exceeding \$1.2 million, while also expanding our leadership team to increase development capacity to diversify funding. Flexible general operating support is vital at this

moment, enabling us to sustain our people and relationships, absorb rising costs, and scale programming responsibly. It ensures we can respond in real time to emerging needs—supporting families in crisis, expanding access, and strengthening long-term outcomes for the young people we serve.

- **How will results & impact be demonstrated?**

THE POINT administers post-program surveys and works with partner schools to track students' academic performance and graduation rates. Information collected is used to measure program success and continuously refine and improve services. Students served by THE POINT will demonstrate the following outcomes:

- Students will report feeling safe and supported at THE POINT.
- Students will indicate resistance to risky behaviors, including sex, drugs, and alcohol
- Students will not skip or drop out of school.
- Students will set goals for post-secondary education and/or employment.
- Students will improve literacy.
- Students will increase grades and/or maintain positive grades.
- Students will report an increase in self-esteem and confidence.
- Students will strengthen leadership skills.
- Students will develop an increased interest in serving others.

THE POINT impacts students like Noah. Noah first came to THE POINT at age 11 and quickly found a safe and supportive environment where he could grow and learn. Through mentorship, faith development, and hands-on opportunities, Noah began to develop confidence, direction, and a sense of purpose.

As part of THE POINT's Hands-On-Training and Pathfinder's Program, Noah participated in a hands-on apprenticeship where he gained practical skills in remodeling, including drywall, flooring, and painting. This experience sparked a new interest in pursuing trade work and helped him build confidence in his abilities. His growth was evident not only in the skills he developed, but in his maturity and commitment—so much so that he chose to prioritize this opportunity over other activities.

Noah's transformation continued as he stepped into a leadership role, joining THE POINT's Junior Staff, where he now mentors and serves younger students. Reflecting on his journey, Noah shares that THE POINT is a place where he feels "safe and at home" and where he has discovered a deeper sense of identity and purpose. Today, he is preparing for trade school and hopes to become the first in his family to pursue higher education—an achievement that would not only impact his own future but inspire his siblings as well.

Noah's story exemplifies how THE POINT provides not only stability and support but also meaningful pathways that empower students to envision and pursue a brighter future.

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: See attached.**
 3. Most recent **annual report** **URL:** https://parkesburgpoint.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/POINT_AnnualReportFINAL_2025-compressed.pdf
 4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement** **URL: See attached.**
 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/>
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