



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

Contact Information

Organization Name: Shar's Hands, Inc
Address: 935 E. Lincoln Highway, Downingtown, PA
Phone: 484.883.0008
Website: www.sharshands.org
Year Incorporated: 2021
FEIN: 87-3662207

ED/CEO Name: Rhonda Stewart
ED/CEO E-mail: Rhonda@sharshands.org
Board Chair Name: Rhonda Stewart
Board Chair Approval (check here): X
Primary Contact Name: Lauren Speakman
Primary Contact E-mail: Lauren@sharshands.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture, Heritage		Education, Library		Environment, Animals
Health	X	Human Services		Social Justice, Civic Engagement
Religion		If other, please describe:		

Mission: To extend compassionate, practical support to families in need – providing essential resources, building community connections, and restoring hope one family at a time.

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

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

The Veterans of the Coatesville VA Medical Center and Chester County (est. 250). The underserved population of Chester County (est. 500+). The women and children of the CYWA Shelter in Coatesville (est. 30 rotating).

Annual Budget \$ _____ \$70,000 _____ 0 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
____ 90 % of budget for program expenses _____ 4 # of Board Volunteers
____ 8 % of budget for administrative expenses _____ 25 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
____ 2 % of budget for fundraising expenses _____ 250 # of Volunteer Hours

100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

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: \$___15,000_____

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

Shar's Hands is a Chester County-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing direct assistance to households facing food insecurity, housing instability, and limited access to basic necessities — helping them achieve stability and long-term self-sufficiency.

We respectfully request a grant of \$15,000 from the Chester County Community Foundation (CCCCF) to fund our Family Stability & Support Services Program. These funds will directly expand our capacity to serve more families in the Chester County community, providing food assistance, emergency supply distribution, and coordinated referral services throughout 2027.

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

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?
- Additionally, for capacity building grant proposals:
 - How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?
 - How will this impact be 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.

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:** <https://www.sharshands.org/aboutus/team>
 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
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 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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