



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: 8/5/2026

Contact Information

Organization Name: Kennett Area Community Services (KACS)	ED/CEO Name: Julie Bensen
Address: 136 W. Cedar St. Kennett Square, PA 19348	ED/CEO E-mail: Julie@KACSImpact.org
Phone: 610-925-3556	Board Chair Name: Ellen Musser
Website: www.KACSImpact.org	Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒
Year Incorporated: 1954	Primary Contact Name: Yajayra Nunez
FEIN: 23-2215441	Primary Contact E-mail: Yajayra@KACSImpact.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: Creating pathways to stability by providing access to food, social services, and education.

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

KACS serves residents across Southern Chester County, including Kennett Square, Avon Grove, and Unionville-Chadds Ford school districts.

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

KACS serves households experiencing food insecurity, housing instability, and financial hardship. Many of the families we serve are working families, employed in agriculture, landscaping, food service, housekeeping, and other essential industries. These families struggle to afford basic necessities because wages have not kept pace with the region's exceptionally high housing and living costs.

In our most recent fiscal year:

- 5,749 individuals in 2,091 households received groceries through the KACS Food Cupboard.
- 1,447 individuals received crisis support including rental assistance, emergency housing, and utility assistance.
- 1,137,974 pounds of healthy food were distributed throughout the area.
- 278 individuals participated in community education programs strengthening financial stability, workforce readiness, and long-term economic mobility.

The majority of households served identify as Latino and many are Spanish-speaking. KACS provides bilingual staff and culturally responsive services to ensure that language is never a barrier to accessing essential support.

Annual Budget \$4,472,841

85% of budget for program expenses

10% of budget for administrative expenses

14 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

12 # of Board Volunteers

252 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

5% of budget for fundraising expenses
100% = total

15,591 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: (FY2025) United Way of Southern Chester County, C. E. Bennett Foundation, PHARE (PA Housing Affordability & Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund)

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)*

Kennett Area Community Service (KACS) is requesting \$10,000 in general operating support to sustain essential food access, housing stabilization, and community education programs for households across Southern Chester County. Rising food and housing costs continue to place increasing pressure on working families, driving greater demand for KACS services. Support from the Chester County Community Foundation will help ensure that neighbors have reliable access to nutritious food, crisis assistance, and educational opportunities that build long-term financial stability.

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

For more than 70 years, Kennett Area Community Service (KACS) has been a trusted resource for neighbors facing food insecurity, housing instability, and financial hardship in Southern Chester County. What began as a small effort to provide food baskets to local families has grown into a comprehensive organization providing food access, housing stabilization services, crisis support, and education programs that help families build long-term stability.

While KACS is widely recognized for its Food Cupboard, food assistance is only the first step in a broader system of support. Access to reliable groceries helps stabilize household budgets, allowing families to redirect limited income toward rent, utilities, transportation, and healthcare. Because food brings families to KACS, staff are able to identify additional needs and connect community members to services such as rental assistance, eviction prevention, financial empowerment education, and referrals to partner organizations.

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.**

Demand for basic needs services continues to grow as rising food prices, housing costs, and overall inflation place increasing strain on working families. Many households in Southern Chester County work in essential industries such as agriculture, landscaping, food service, and housekeeping, yet their wages often do not keep pace with the region's high cost of living.

KACS addresses these challenges through coordinated services designed to stabilize households and prevent crises from escalating. Together, these programs create a continuum of support, meeting immediate needs while building the skills and stability needed for long-term financial security.

The KACS Food Cupboard provides groceries through a client-choice model, allowing families to select foods that best meet their household needs. In the past fiscal year, KACS distributed more than 1 million pounds of healthy food to nearly 5,800 individuals, helping ensure consistent access to nutritious meals. KACS also provides food deliveries to low-income senior housing communities, homebound seniors, individuals with disabilities, and families who cannot travel to the cupboard. Student food boxes address gaps when school is out in the summer. The food programs are supported by 250 active volunteers, significant expanding service capacity without increasing operating costs.

KACS also provides housing stabilization and crisis support services, including rental assistance, utility assistance, emergency housing support, and case management. In the past year, KACS supported 1,447 individuals with crisis services, providing more than \$258,000 in financial assistance to help prevent eviction, maintain housing, and stabilize families in times of urgent need. These services help families remain safely housed and avoid the long-term consequences of homelessness.

KACS offers community education programs that equip participants with the tools and confidence to achieve long-term stability. The nationally recognized program Getting Ahead and follow-on classes like Financial Empowerment build practical skills for stability including budgeting, saving, and goal setting while fostering supportive peer networks. These programs are offered in both English and Spanish to ensure accessibility.

In the past year, 278 community members participated in education programs designed to strengthen financial stability and economic mobility. Participants have demonstrated measurable outcomes, including increased savings, reduced debt, and improved financial decision-making. Notably, many graduates no longer require crisis services after completing these programs, highlighting the long-term impact of education as a pathway out of poverty.

Funding is especially important as demand for services remains high and households continue to face ongoing economic pressure. Support from the Chester County Community Foundation will help KACS sustain these essential programs, ensuring neighbors across Southern Chester County have access to food, housing stability, and the resources needed to move toward long-term financial security.

KACS measures impact through program data, service participation, and ongoing evaluation of household outcomes. This information helps staff and leadership understand changing community needs and ensures services remain responsive, effective, and accountable.

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://kacsimpact.org/board/>
 3. Most recent **annual report** **URL:** https://kacsimpact.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/ImpactReport_2024-25_web.pdf
 4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement** **URL:** <https://kacsimpact.org/financial/>
 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**.
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- 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.*