



I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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

Date: Sep 16, 2026

Contact Information

Organization Name: Chadds Ford Elementary PTO Inc.

Address: 3 Baltimore Pike

Phone: 267-800-8806

Website: <https://cfes.ucfsd.org/pto>

Year Incorporated: March 7, 2022

FEIN: 88-1166201

ED/CEO Name: Pres: Kristen Zimmerman

ED/CEO E-mail: cfespto@ucfsd.net

Board Chair Name:

Board Chair Approval (check here): ☐

Primary Contact Name: Samantha Johannessen

Primary Contact E-mail: sam@johanclan.com

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission:

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

Unionville Chadds Ford School District within Chester County

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

Serving elementary school students at Chadds Ford Elementary – approximately 300 students and their families.

Annual Budget \$ 79,500 0 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

92 % of budget for program expenses 7 # of Board Volunteers

1 % of budget for administrative expenses 10-15 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

7 % of budget for fundraising expenses 975 # of Volunteer Hours

100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

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

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

Proposal Summary: Chadds Ford Elementary PTO requests \$10,000, or any portion thereof, to support educational enrichment programs serving approximately 300 students. Grant funding will help provide educational assemblies, teacher and classroom grants, grade-specific learning experiences, arts programming, and STEAM opportunities. The PTO also helps ensure that no child is excluded because of financial circumstances by covering the costs of field trips and school activities for families who would otherwise be unable to participate. As an entirely volunteer-led organization with no paid staff, the PTO directs its resources toward enriching every student's educational experience and expanding access to opportunities beyond those covered by the school's operating budget.

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 Chadds Ford Elementary PTO works to enrich the educational experience of every student by funding programs, activities, and resources that are not fully covered by the school district's operating budget. Serving approximately 300 elementary students, the PTO supports academic enrichment, STEAM education, the arts, teacher-led initiatives, grade-specific learning experiences, and equitable access to field trips and school activities.

A key initiative is the PTO's teacher grant program, which gives educators the resources to introduce creative, hands-on learning opportunities tailored to their students. Recent teacher-funded initiatives include coding and robotics, which builds skills in engineering, coding, problem-solving, and collaboration, and ukuleles for music classes, which provide students with an engaging opportunity to develop musical knowledge and performance skills. Additional initiatives include educational assemblies; library and general enrichment grants; assignment books and other student resources; arts programming; and grade-specific educational experiences such as Mini Mall, Winter Workshop, Read-a-Thon, and other educational and year-end activities.

The PTO is equally committed to ensuring that financial circumstances do not prevent a child from participating. When families are unable to afford field trips or other school activities, the PTO provides funding to cover those costs discreetly so that students can participate alongside their peers.

Recent efforts have expanded the range of educational programming available throughout the school year while increasing access to enriching experiences for all students. The PTO's distinctiveness lies in its broad reach, emphasis on educational opportunity, and volunteer-driven structure. With no paid staff, seven volunteer board members, 10 to 15 additional active volunteers, and approximately 975 volunteer hours annually, the organization directs the greatest possible share of its resources toward students. Its programs are designed to benefit the full school community while providing additional support to students and families who need it most.

2. Funding request

What specific needs and issues are being addressed, and through what programs and services?

School operating budgets cannot fully fund the range of enrichment experiences, instructional resources, and hands-on learning opportunities that help elementary students remain engaged and excited about learning. This request will help address that gap by supporting educational assemblies, teacher and classroom grants, library and general enrichment grants, arts programming, assignment books, and grade-specific educational experiences.

Teacher grants are a particularly important part of this work because they allow educators to develop innovative programs based on their students' needs and interests. In addition to the previously mentioned ukeleles, robotics and coding tools, the CFES PTO has also funded subscriptions for mystery science, spherio balls, and building a thinking classroom for math. These examples allow children to strengthen engineering, coding, problem-solving, and collaboration skills, all in a hands-on environment.

The request also addresses financial barriers that may prevent students from participating in field trips and school activities. The PTO provides assistance to cover participation costs for families experiencing financial hardship, ensuring that no child is excluded from an educational experience because of an inability to pay.

Why is it important to fund this now?

Grant support is particularly important now because household budget pressures have reduced many families' ability to donate at the levels they have in previous years. At the same time, approximately \$20,000 in annual grant funding associated with families of students who previously attended Chadds Ford Elementary is no longer available to the PTO. The combined loss of grant revenue and reduced family contributions creates a substantial funding gap that will directly limit student programming if alternative support is not secured.

These financial constraints come as the costs of instructional materials, field trips, assemblies, and other student experiences continue to rise. FY26 also added a full-day Kindergarten which added the need for additional PTO support. Without additional funding, the PTO may be forced to reduce teacher grants, hands-on STEAM and arts initiatives, educational programming, and assistance for students whose families cannot afford field trips or school activities. A grant of \$10,000 would help offset the loss of prior funding, preserve meaningful educational opportunities, and ensure that students continue to have equitable access to programs that extend learning beyond the school's operating budget.

How will results and impact be demonstrated?

The PTO will document the programs, classroom resources, and student experiences supported by the grant, along with the number of students and grade levels served and the actual expenditures associated with each initiative. Because many funded programs serve entire classrooms, grade levels, or the full school, the PTO expects grant-supported activities to benefit approximately 300 students during the school year.

For teacher grants and STEAM initiatives, impact will be demonstrated through educator feedback, student participation, and evidence of completed learning activities, such as robotics projects and classroom music instruction. The PTO will also track the number of field trips and school activities for which financial assistance is provided, while protecting the privacy of participating families. Feedback from teachers, staff, students, and families will help the PTO assess educational value, accessibility, and opportunities for improvement. The PTO Board will review these results to guide future funding and program decisions.

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 *please see e-mail attachment*
 2. List of **Board** of Directors, with their affiliations **URL:** *please see e-mail attachment*
 3. Most recent **annual report** **URL:** *please see e-mail attachment*
 4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement** **URL:** *please see e-mail attachment*
 5. Itemized **organizational operating budget** with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date *please see e-mail attachment*
 6. If capacity building initiative, **itemized budget** (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable). *N/A*
 7. Current **strategic plan**. If your nonprofit does **not** have a current strategic plan, **explain why**. *please see e-mail attachment*
- 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.*