



I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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

Date

Contact Information

Organization Name: Phoenixville Area Police Athletic League (PAL)

ED/CEO Name: James Deoria

Address: PO Box 221, Phoenixville, PA 19460

ED/CEO E-mail: paljimed@yahoo.com

Phone: 610-659-1308

Board Chair Name: James Lombardi

Website: phoenixvillepal.org

Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒

Year Incorporated: 1999

Primary Contact Name: James Deoria

FEIN: 23-3011709

Primary Contact E-mail: paljimed@yahoo.com

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:

The mission of the Phoenixville Area Police Athletic League is to provide young people with safe, structured, and meaningful opportunities that build character, confidence, discipline, leadership, and healthy relationships. Through athletics, education, mentoring, and positive engagement with law enforcement and community volunteers, PAL helps youth discover their potential, make positive choices, and grow into responsible, resilient, and connected members of the community.

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

Phoenixville, Pennsylvania (Chester County)

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

The Phoenixville Area Police Athletic League serves **approximately 330 youth annually** from the Greater Phoenixville area. PAL provides safe, structured, and affordable opportunities for children and adolescents during after-school hours and other times when positive supervision, mentorship, and constructive activities are especially important.

The youth served come from a range of family and economic backgrounds, including participants who may face financial barriers to athletics, enrichment programs, mentoring, leadership development, and community-based activities. PAL works to ensure that cost does not prevent young people from participating by offering scholarship and fee assistance when needed.

Participants benefit from athletic programs such as boxing, wrestling, golf, and girls' lacrosse, as well as educational and life skills opportunities including computer education, babysitting certification, mentoring, leadership development, and community service. Through these programs, PAL helps youth build confidence, discipline, accountability, fitness, teamwork, respect, and positive relationships with caring adults, volunteer coaches, mentors, and law enforcement partners.

Annual Budget \$ 50,000

0 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

70 % of budget for program expenses

6 # of Board Volunteers

20 % of budget for administrative expenses

39 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

10 % of budget for fundraising expenses

4,750 # of Volunteer Hours

100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

The John Lazarich Foundation, Edwin Gold, Phoenix Mobile Homes

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: N/A				

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

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

*The Phoenixville Area Police Athletic League (PAL) respectfully requests **\$10,000 in general operating support** to sustain year-round youth programming in the Greater Phoenixville area. Funding will help keep programs affordable, provide scholarships and fee assistance, maintain safe equipment and facilities, support coach training, and expand access to athletic, educational, mentoring, and leadership opportunities. Through these programs, PAL provides young people with safe, structured, and positive activities that build confidence, discipline, character, and trusted relationships with caring adult mentors.*



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 Phoenixville Area Police Athletic League (PAL) aims to strengthen the Greater Phoenixville community by providing young people with safe, structured, and meaningful opportunities that promote character, leadership, healthy lifestyles, and positive relationships with caring adult mentors. Founded in 1999 by Executive Director James E. "Jimmy" Deoria, PAL began as a youth boxing program and has grown into a trusted nonprofit offering athletics, education, mentoring, leadership development, and community service.

PAL's key initiatives include youth boxing, wrestling, golf, girls' lacrosse, computer education, babysitting certification, leadership development, mentoring, community service, and educational enrichment. The organization is especially focused on providing constructive after-school and free-time activities during hours when young people may otherwise lack supervision, structure, or positive adult support.

PAL's achievements include more than twenty-five years of continuous youth programming, a strong volunteer coaching and board leadership structure, and a history of helping young people build confidence, discipline, accountability, and leadership. Former participants have gone on to become police officers, members of the United States Armed Forces, skilled tradespeople, business professionals, college graduates, parents, and community leaders.

What makes PAL distinctive is its combination of athletics, mentorship, life skills education, and positive police-youth engagement. PAL creates a setting where youth can know police officers as coaches, mentors, volunteers, and trusted role models, helping build trust, communication, and community connection.

2. Funding request

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

PAL addresses the need for safe, supervised, affordable, and constructive youth programming during after-school hours and other vulnerable periods when young people may lack structure or positive activity. These are times when youth can be more likely to experience isolation, negative peer pressure, or involvement in risky behavior.

PAL responds to these needs through a combination of athletic, educational, mentoring, and leadership programs. Offerings include youth boxing, wrestling, golf, girls' lacrosse, computer education, babysitting certification, mentoring, leadership development, community service, and educational enrichment.

Through these programs, PAL helps young people develop discipline, accountability, teamwork, resilience, respect, confidence, fitness, self-control, and leadership. The organization also reduces barriers to participation by offering scholarship assistance and keeping programs affordable for families.

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

Funding is important now because PAL's programs help provide young people with safe, constructive alternatives during after-school hours and other unsupervised times when structure and positive adult relationships are especially needed. Continued operating support will help PAL maintain accessible programming, replace or purchase safe equipment, support volunteer training, offset facility and insurance costs, and ensure that financial hardship does not prevent a child from participating.

This investment will also help PAL continue its prevention-based work. By engaging youth early through athletics, mentoring, life skills education, and positive relationships with police officers and community volunteers, PAL helps build confidence, trust, and healthy decision-making before young people encounter more serious challenges.

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

PAL can demonstrate results and impact through both quantitative and qualitative measures.

Potential indicators include:

- Number of youth served across PAL programs
- Number of scholarships or fee assistance awards provided
- Program participation and retention rates
- Number of volunteer coaches and mentors trained or certified
- Number of programs offered throughout the year
- Equipment and safety improvements completed
- Youth participation in leadership, educational, or community service activities
- Parent, participant, coach, and volunteer feedback
- Stories of youth growth, confidence, leadership, and continued community engagement
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PAL's impact can also be demonstrated through participant testimonials, photographs of programming, coach and family feedback, and examples of former participants who have gone on to serve as professionals, parents, volunteers, mentors, and community leaders.

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](#):
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 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@chescocf.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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