



GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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

Date

September 18, 2026

Contact Information

Organization Name: Half a Million Kids
Address: 944 Providence Rd, Newtown Sq, PA 19073
Phone: 484-994-8408
Website: halfamillionkids.org
Year Incorporated: 2015
FEIN: 81-0705219

ED/CEO Name: Leah Stauffer
ED/CEO E-mail: leah@halfamillionkids.org
Board Chair Name: Leah Stauffer
Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒
Primary Contact Name: Carly Smith
Primary Contact E-mail: carly@halfamillionkids.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest: Human Services

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

Mission: Half a Million Kids (HMK) is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to foster and trafficked children. Our mission is to place every child **eligible for adoption** into a safe, permanent, loving home through our results based 3-Phase Plan. We intend to return foster care to its original purpose, a short-term safety net for kids awaiting reunification with their birth family or another permanency outcome. We aim to support caseworkers and will revolutionize the group home setting for those children who need to remain in foster care.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): All of Chester, Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, and Philadelphia counties

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

There are approximately 6000 children in foster care in our above 5 County Pilot Region and 2200 are eligible for adoption.

Annual Budget \$485,953 (ESTIMATED %)

~ 80% of budget for program expenses

~10% of budget for administrative expenses

~ 10% of budget for fundraising expenses

100% = total

___3___ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

___5___ # of Board Volunteers

___2___ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

___20___ # of Volunteer Hours per week

Top 3-5 funding sources: Chase Lenfest HCL Philanthropy, Costco Charitable Giving, Greater Washington Community Foundation, M&T Charitable Foundation, Microsoft Corporation

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

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

Proposal Summary: (a few sentences, please) Half a Million Kids (HMK) respectfully requests \$10,000 in general operating funding to support the expansion of its comprehensive foster care reform model in Chester County and surrounding Philadelphia counties. The grant will enable HMK to maintain executive coordination, manage partner logistics, and ensure organizational readiness as regional deployment expands to improve placement stability and mitigate human trafficking risks. Funding at this critical juncture will ensure operational readiness.

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

Overall Aims & Mission

Half a Million Kids (HMK) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to transforming the broken foster care system and protecting vulnerable youth. HMK's core mission is to place 45% of foster youth; including every child eligible for adoption, into safe, permanent, loving homes, returning foster care to its original purpose as a short-term safety net while blunting a primary pipeline for child sex trafficking.

Key Initiatives

HMK operationalizes its vision through a comprehensive 3-Phase Plan:

1. **Phase 1 (Technology Modernization):** Deployment of the HMK Interactive SII (Standardized ID Indicator System) platform to eliminate reporting delays, provide real-time data transparency, modernize matching, and relieve caseworker overload.
2. **Phase 2 (Awareness & Mobilization):** A nationwide, media-driven awareness campaign to recruit qualified foster/adoptive families and engage community leaders.
3. **Phase 3 (Group Home Transformation):** Scaling the award-winning Being Beautiful Foundation (BBF) House Parent Model and embedding the *HomeBase™* whole-child curriculum across foster care in the region.

Upon demonstrating positive, data-backed results across the three phases, HMK will codify its operational methodology into a turnkey, replicable blueprint. HMK will subsequently initiate a national campaign to recruit local leaders and deploy the model across the U.S.

Key Achievements

- **Proven Care Model:** Partnered to scale BBF's House Parent Model, which has served over 200 foster children across existing homes.
- **State and Local Recognition and Progress:** The BBF house parent model that HMK is scaling has been recognized with an Award for Excellence from PA Secretary of Human Services Valerie Arkoosh and a formal commendation from PA Governor Josh Shapiro. HMK maintains ongoing strategic engagements with Governor Josh Shapiro regarding the full implementation of its 3-Phase Plan, alongside a scheduled October 5th meeting with Attorney General Dave Sunday to review HMK's foster youth anti-trafficking technology. Acknowledgement of HMK's achievements can be read in the August 2026 issue of Main Line Today magazine.
- **State Funding Update:** PA Senator McCormick has advanced HMK to the federal subcommittee for congressionally directed spending for its proprietary technology.
- **Federal Engagement:** Held high-level briefings with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), positioning Pennsylvania as a national model for child welfare reform.

Distinctiveness

HMK is creating a national model in the 5-county Philadelphia region and operates as an overarching "Community Quarterback" using a collective impact framework. Rather than operating in a silo, HMK bridges real-time data technology with high-quality, family-style residential environments in Class-A neighborhoods, ensuring foster youth receive structured, long-term stability and life-skills preparation.

2. Funding Request (\$10,000 General Operating Funding)

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

- **Systemic Failure & Data Lag:** The U.S. foster care system serves ~500,000 youth, but antiquated data systems leave decision-makers with lagging reports, zero accountability, and extreme caseworker burnout. HMK addresses this through its **Phase 1 SIIS Technology Platform**, providing live dashboards to track placements and eliminate data gaps.
- **Bed Shortages & Placement Instability:** Nationally, there are only 57 foster beds for every 100 youth needing care, leading to children moving 10+ times by age 12. HMK addresses this by scaling the **BBF House Parent Model**, expanding 20+ family-style homes across Southeastern PA (including Chester, Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, and Philadelphia counties).
- **Aging Out & Trafficking Risks:** 50% of foster youth who age out face homelessness, incarceration, substance use issues, and government dependency, while more than 20,000 foster youth go missing annually in the U.S. HMK delivers the **HomeBase™ Program**, offering 3 core tracks—*Education Stability*, *Personal Development/Wellness*, and *Career/Life Planning*—paired with a 3-person mentorship team to guide youth toward self-sufficiency. Included in the curriculum is online grooming education, which is critical in heightening foster youth's awareness of trafficking risks and vulnerabilities.

Why is it important to fund this now?

1. **Critical Expansion Point:** HMK is actively operationalizing its pilot model across Southeastern Pennsylvania, with county placement agreements established, including an agreement with Chester County that converts to a full contract upon initial child placement.
2. **Federal Policy Momentum:** The timing directly leverages the federal Executive Order of November 13, 2025 ("*Fostering the Future for American Children and Families*") and ACF's "*A Home for Every Child*" mandate (which will include new State scorecards), opening unmatched alignment for scaling.
3. **Operational Readiness:** General operating funds (\$10,000) are urgently needed to maintain executive coordination, manage partner logistics, and ensure organizational readiness as regional deployment expands.

How will results & impact be demonstrated?

- **Real-Time System Metrics:** Measured via SIIS software tracking live foster child counts, placement matching speeds, caseworker caseload reductions, and improved caseworker retention rates.
- **HomeBase™ Quantitative Metrics:** Tracked via program attendance, mentor-to-child ratios, weekly touchpoints, achievement rates, and reductions in school, caseworker, and placement disruptions.
- **Target Long-Term Outcomes:** Achieving a 45% permanent placement rate, cutting aging-out negative outcomes by 50%, and scaling 20+ permanent house parent homes across the region.

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 - **SEE ATTACHED**
 2. List of **Board** of Directors, with their affiliations **URL:** - **SEE ATTACHED**
 3. Most recent **annual report URL:** - <https://halfamillionkids.org/impact-reports>
 4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement URL:** - **SEE ATTACHED (FIN STATEMENT & 990 EZ)**
 5. Itemized **organizational operating budget** with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date - **SEE ATTACHED**
 6. Current **strategic plan.** - **SEE ATTACHED**
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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.*