



Chester County Fund for Women and Girls
Leading and Uniting the Community for Women and Girls

**Core Grants Program
Request for Proposals**

Posting Date: December 10, 2019

Closing Date: January 21, 2020

Objective of this Request for Proposals:

To issue grant funding to organizations demonstrating a commitment to women and girls in Chester County. Grant recipients should have a gender lens. That is, they should demonstrate an understanding of the unique challenges women and girls face pursuing equality and the ways in which systems, institutions, and policies must change to advance women's equality. In addition, the proposed programs should be project-specific and should provide deliverables, milestones, and/or achieve measurable outcomes as possible within a year of receiving the grant. The work outlined in the proposal should be connected to long-term positive impact for women and girls.

Any organization applying for a general operating or capacity building grant must demonstrate that women, girls, or mothers and their children in Chester County make up at least 75% of the organization's total target population.

Organizations applying for program or project support must demonstrate one of the following: 1) 100% of the recipient of services supported by a CCFWG grant are women, girls, or mothers and their children in Chester County; **or** 2) the proposed work will produce impacts that increase resources and opportunities for women and girls in Chester County. Please see *Funding Priorities and Guidelines for more information regarding the Fund's eligibility requirements, preferences, and exclusions.*

Background:

CCFWG's mission is to lead and unite the community through philanthropy and advocacy to ensure that women and girls have resources and opportunities to thrive. To achieve this, CCFWG is looking to award grants to organizations or partnerships that demonstrate the ability to advance CCFWG's mission. The size and number of grants awarded will be based on the funds that are available.

Funding Priorities:

CCFWG is interested in funding organizations that address the following priorities:

- Meet the **core needs** of women and girls;
- Improve access to **economic opportunities** for women and girls;
- Promote **health and wellness** by addressing needs specifically related to the health of women and girls; and

Examples of services provided by our grantees include, but are not limited to:

- Vocational training and workforce preparation
- STEM programming for girls
- Case management for teenage mothers
- Improved access to women's health services
- Domestic violence services
- Housing and homelessness prevention
- Youth development programming focused on girls leadership and/or empowerment

Through investment in these areas, CCFWG hopes to play an active role in providing equality and security for women and girls, making our communities stronger and more vibrant for everyone.

Recent Changes to Core Grants Program:

Beginning in 2020, all core grants awarded will be two-year grants. The funding grant period is a 24-month period where funding for Year Two is dispersed after CCFWG determines that the grantee continues to satisfy the grant requirements and funds remain available. Please see *Core Grants FAQ for more information regarding these recent changes.*

Other Notes:

- Anti-discrimination Policy: CCFWG does not discriminate against organizations on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, physical and mental ability, military or veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under federal, state or local law. *In fact, CCFWG upholds diversity and inclusion, recognizing that its work will be strongest with a rich variety of perspectives.*
- CCFWG will review all proposals and assess need. CCFWG may not fund the full amount requested.
- Grant awards are subject to the approval of the full Board of Directors. It is not the intention of CCFWG to establish an ongoing or permanent grant relationship with grantees.

Grants Available and Evaluation Requirements by Priority Area:

Organizations may apply in the priority area which they feel they align. If organizations have questions regarding the fit of their work, please contact Michelle Legaspi Sánchez, Executive Director, at michelle@ccfwg.org or 484-356-0940. The following table outlines the grant awards available and evaluation requirements within each area.

	Core Needs	Economic Opportunities	Health and Wellness
Grant Award Size per Year	\$5,000 to \$15,000	\$5,000 to \$15,000	\$5,000 to \$15,000
Anticipated Number of Awards Available	5-10	5-10	5-10
Length of Grant Period	Two-year	Two-year	Two-year
Type of Support Available*	Program/project, general operating, or capacity building	Program/project, general operating, or capacity building	Program/project, general operating, or capacity building
Indicators** Used for Program Support and General Operating Requests (Select one or more)	See list included in Application Narrative for suggested indicators	See list included in Application Narrative for suggested indicators	See list included in Application Narrative for suggested indicators
Additional outcomes for Capacity Building Support Requests	<u>In addition to choosing outcomes related to the selected priority area,</u> describe the milestones and deliverables that will be achieved with the grant; Include end-of-project deliverables (such as a strategic plan or technology enhancements).		

*Glossary of terms:

Program/Project Grant: Funding for a specific initiative or new endeavor

General Operating Grant: Funding for the general purpose or work of an organization, including personnel, administration, and other expenses for an existing program.

Capacity Building Grant: Funding specifically to enhance organizational capacity and address important issues of organizational development and effectiveness (e.g. strategic planning, leadership development, technology infrastructure, etc.).

**Please note that these indicators may vary based on your organization’s focus area and program. Additionally, these are suggestions for units of measurement. Please consult the Executive Director with any questions regarding evaluation requirements.

Application Timeline:

- December 10, 2019 – January 21, 2020: Online application is available
- January 21, 2020 **by 5:00 pm**: Deadline
- February 2020 – April 2020: Grants Allocation Committee reviews and issues proposal recommendations for Board of Directors
- March 2, 2020 – March 31, 2020: Site visits will occur for organizations*
- Early May 2020: CCFWG's Board of Directors reviews and approves final grant recommendations
- Mid-May 2020: Selected grantees will be notified
- June 2020: Year One Funding Disbursement
- March 2021: Site visits for grantees
- May 2021: Year One Report Deadline
- June 2021: Year Two Funding Disbursement**

*Organizations that are recommended to move forward in the grant review process will be contacted at the end of February for site visit scheduling.

**Year Two Funding is contingent upon CCFWG's determination that the grantee continues to satisfy the grant requirements and continued availability of funds

Proposal Preparation and Submission Guidelines:

The link to the online application form will be available on December 10, 2019. Submissions should be submitted electronically no later than January 21, 2020 at 5:00 PM. Applications received after the deadline stated in the RFP will not be accepted. CCFWG will only consider complete applications. No other material such as videos, brochures, newspaper articles and other attachments will be considered by the Grants Allocation Committee.

In addition to completion of the online application form, the following required documents (**in pdf format**) must be uploaded by the deadline in order for the application to be considered complete:

- Proposal Narrative
- Program/Project Budget Form, if applying for program/project or capacity building support
- Organization Budget Form
- For non-profit organizations or groups, one copy of the most recent IRS 501(c)(3) ruling
- For organizations with a fiscal sponsor, one copy of the sponsor's most recent IRS 501(c)(3) ruling along with a letter to the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls from the sponsor indicating willingness to serve in that capacity
- One copy of the applicant's Board of Directors list
- One copy of the applicant's most recent audited financial statement. If an audited financial statement is not available, include one copy of the organization's most recent Board-approved financial report.
- Strategic Plan if available

For technical assistance, please contact Brandon Szerenyi, Director of Operations, at bszerenyi@ccfwg.org or 484-356-0940.