BUILDING AN EQUITABLE FUTURE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



IMPACT 2023 REPORT 2024





Igniting Change for Women and Girls

Our Mission

The Fund leads and unites the community through philanthropy and advocacy to ensure that women and girls have resources and opportunities to thrive.

Our Vision

Women and girls have equality and security, making our communities stronger and more vibrant for everyone. The Fund is a vital partner and leader, convening individuals and organizations with boldness, connectivity, and creativity around a shared commitment to gender equity and the well-being and self-determination of women and girls.

Who we serve:

When we refer to women and girls, we are referring to women, girls, and individuals with lived female experience including cis women and girls, trans women and girls, and nonbinary / gender non-conforming adults, youth, and children.

Our allies:

Any individual, regardless of gender identity, dedicated to the mission of The Fund for Women and Girls.



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Celebrating our Impact, Building our Future



To our incredible supporters,

Like so many communities across our country, Chester County experiences vast inequities among our residents. While the work of a childcare worker is just as important as that of a company CEO, their pay is not reflective of those values. The response to safety issues, the quality of education, and the accessibility of meaningful healthcare vary drastically based on zip code, even within our county. Basic resources such as housing, food, and transportation have become available only to those with means.

Building an equitable future for women and girls may seem an audacious goal in the face of current realities; yet to back away from such a challenge would be contrary to The Fund's mission. The Fund's Board of Directors and staff have worked hard to ensure that we are meeting our goals by taking into consideration the lived experiences of women and girls throughout Chester County. Our focus was to utilize our strengths; grantmaking, advocacy, and community, to ensure that women and girls have the resources and opportunities to thrive.

This past year, The Fund:

- **Clarified who we serve** as inclusive of all individuals with lived female experience including cis women and girls, trans women and girls, and nonbinary/gender nonconforming adults, youth, and children;
- Adapted The Fund's GAB and CivicG+ youth programs focused on advocacy and grantmaking to fit a half-day workshop format held in partnership with nonprofit organizations around the county to increase access for diverse communities;
- Launched research for a special edition of the Blueprint Report focused on racial and gender equity, led by Dr. Chasity Riddick, a member of The Fund's Board of Directors and a professor at Temple University specializing in health equity and cultural awareness; and,
- With your help, we invested nearly \$250,000 in nonprofits aligned with our mission and advocacy priorities through The Fund's grantmaking programs.

We invite you to pause and celebrate the past year with us, reflecting on the progress we've made, together. As we look ahead, consider how you'll join us in making an even greater impact with The Fund this year. No matter how close we get to our goal of building an equitable future, one thing is certain: we cannot do this work without you. Together, we will support, uplift, and advocate for all women and girls in Chester County!

In solidarity,

Cheryl Brubaker Executive Director

Christina Norland,

Board Chair



BLUEPRINT REPORT

Blueprint Special Edition

The Blueprint Report, first published in 2005, uses existing research to highlight pressing issues facing women and girls at the local, state, and national levels, with a deep dive on conditions in Chester County. The Report underscores progress, challenges, and areas for improvement, with clear action steps for the community on ways to ignite change. This data is used by The Fund, other nonprofits throughout the county, and government agencies for fundraising material, grant applications, case statements, program and staffing planning, community action, policymaking, and more. County agencies and nonprofits have used the Blueprint Report data to bring in over \$2 million of new dollars of grant funding into Chester County just this past year and over half of our grantees use the report for educational and grantmaking purposes.

As The Fund prepared and completed the Fourth Edition Blueprint Report, we recognized that certain data – particularly data disaggregated by race – was often unavailable. Shortcomings in data availability in Chester County, the state of Pennsylvania, and the United States create a gap in understanding the challenges of women and girls of color in Chester County. Identifying this need for information, The Fund for Women and Girls will continue the groundbreaking impact of our Fourth Edition Blueprint Report by producing a Blueprint Racial and Gender Equity Special Report with a focus on the state of women and girls of color in Chester County.

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RAISING OUR VOICE:

POSITION STATEMENTS

At The Fund, we recognize that advocacy is also about using our platform to speak out on critical issues affecting the rights and well-being of women and girls. This past year, we've taken a stand on key topics, ranging from reproductive healthcare access to the protection from gender-based violence, aligning our voice with the communities we serve.

Our role as community leaders with a gender lens drives us to prioritize clear, impactful messaging on these issues. For instance, this past spring, several Supreme Court rulings had profound implications for women and girls. In response, The Fund issued position statements to clarify our stance and advocate for the rights of those affected.



Instagram post

The Supreme Court decides on abortion pill access

BREAKING



We believe that our voice, when combined with the collective power of other community leaders and our supporters, can make a difference. **By raising** awareness and taking firm positions, we will influence public opinion and policy to create a more equitable society.

Stay Engaged with Us:

Follow us on social media to keep up with the latest issues or visit our "News and Press" page (https://www.thefundcc.org/press-rss-feed/) for detailed updates.

EMPOWER HER VOTE

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Why do we Empower Her Vote?

Because so many issues that affect women and girls are at stake. By voting, we can fight for gender equity, ensuring that policies and laws reflect the needs and aspirations of everyone, not just a select few. Voting is the most powerful tool we can use to ensure our democracy and meaningful representation. It enables us to champion issues like healthcare, education, reproductive rights, and workplace equality.

By voting, women honor the legacy of those who fought tirelessly for their right to participate in democracy, and those who are still fighting. Each vote is a step toward a future where women's perspectives are integral to decision-making, inspiring generations to come and ensuring that progress continues.

Your vote is your power—use it to create the world you want to see for women and girls in Chester County and beyond.



The Fund for Women and Girls continues to carry the banner of the Women's Suffrage movement through Empower Her Vote. This powerful non-partisan voter engagement initiative elevated the voices and influence of women, girls and individuals with lived female experience in the democratic process. We hosted a rededication event on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at the "100 Years: Votes for Women" mural by Kendra Beitzel, followed by voting engagement, education, and registration activities with local nonprofit partners, elected officials, community members, all supported and amplified by The Fund.

Speakers: (PA Senator Carolyn Comitta, Brandi Levine, West Chester Mayor Lillian DeBaptiste, PA Representative Chris Pielli, Kendra Beitzel, CivicG+ participants Talia, Gabby, Sophie, and Elena, Deborah Tanskley-Brown of #ourvoiceshouldbeheard and Jahnavi Rao of New Voters)

ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2024

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

In February 2024, The Fund hosted the inaugural "Advocacy In Action" event, a groundbreaking initiative designed to empower the next generation of female leaders. This gathering brought together youth participants from various programs across the county, alongside Executive Directors and Commissioners from the PA Governor's Women's Commission and the PA Governor's NextGen Commission. During this event, young advocates had the unique opportunity to learn about state advocacy and priorities directly from the Governor's commissions, while also sharing their hopes and concerns for the future of women and girls.

Youth advocates from Parkesburg Point, Coatesville Youth Initiative, GirlsSpark joined The Fund's program participants from GAB, and CivicG+ to voice their lived experiences, advocacy goals, and priorities for the commissions to consider in decisionmaking processes. Although not present in person, two youth advocates from Mighty Writers contributed by submitting powerful anonymous letters that highlighted the challenges they face. The GAB and CivicG+ participants specifically addressed their funding and advocacy priorities, connecting these issues to their personal lives and aspirations for the future.



At The Fund, we believe that amplifying the voices of those with lived experiences and empowering our youth is essential to creating lasting change. By inviting other organizations to participate in this event and supporting their advocacy journeys, we are fostering a new generation of activists who will continue the fight for a brighter and more equitable future for women and girls.

"It worries me that if I enter college, I will be one of the few Hispanic students in the school. At times it's difficult to be accepted because there are still people out there who have assumptions about people just because of their race."

- Mighty Writers Participant -



With a deep understanding of the unique challenges that women and girls face in Chester County, one of the ways The Fund addresses the resulting needs is through grantmaking. Utilizing gender and equity lenses, we support nonprofits in Chester County that provide direct service to women and girls through our three grant programs; Core Grants, GAB Grants, and Impact Grants.

What is Trust-Based Philanthropy?

Trust-based philanthropy is an approach to grantmaking that centers relationships based on trust. It seeks to shift power dynamics between funders and grantees by adopting practices that respect and empower grantee organizations. Key principles of trust-based philanthropy include unrestricted funding for multiple years, simplified application and reporting processes, collaborative relationships, and supporting capacity building.

The Fund implemented grantmaking software that makes applying for grants easier. The Fund has continued utilizing a 2-year cycle for the Core Grants program, allowing grantees greater focus on the important work they are doing.

GRANT OVERVIEW

All of our grant programs take into consideration different implications on access to services and supports. Geographic location and accessibility, new or unique services, historical funding, DEI representation in service provision, equity of funding priorities, potential for systems change, and much more was taken into consideration during discussions and final recommendations.

"This 2-year grant would provide for us some "breathing room" in the neverending chase for funds as we turn those energies more into serving the community we have been entrusted with."

- Nina -Alianzas de Phoenixville

Grant Overview

Why is Trust-Based Philanthropy important?

***** Empowerment of Grantees:

By providing flexible funding and reducing administrative burdens, grantees can focus on their core work and respond more effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities.

★ Enhanced Impact:

Trust-based relationships can lead to more innovative and impactful solutions as grantees are given the freedom to use funds as needed.

★ Stronger Relationships:

Building trust and treating grantees as partners fosters stronger, more effective relationships and collaborations.

★ Efficiency:

Simplified processes reduce the time and resources spent on grant applications and reporting, making the funding process more efficient for both funders and grantees.

★ Equity and Inclusion:

Trust-based philanthropy can help address power imbalances and promote equity by valuing the knowledge and expertise of grantees, especially those from marginalized communities.

By using trust-based practices, The Fund creates a more supportive and effective philanthropic ecosystem that better meets the needs of our grantees and the communities they serve.



Total grant amount:

\$244,500

GRANTS TOTAL

IMPACT GRANTS 6

- Alliance for Health Equity
- Black Women of Chester County in Action
- Chester County Opportunities Industrialization Center
- Cheyney University
- New Voters
- Single Mothers Conference

GAB GRANTS 6

- Alianzas de Phoenixville
- LCH Health and Community Services
- Maternal Child and Health Consortium
- Mom's House
- Planned Parenthood
- YoungMoms

GRANT MAKING IN ACTION GRANTS 4

- Crime Victims Center of Chester County
- Health Care Access
- Mom's House
- Planned Parenthood

CORE GRANTS 17

- A Child's Light (New Grantee)
- Alianzas de Phoenixville
- Crime Victims Center of Chester County
- Domestic Violence Center of Chester County
- LCH Health and Community Services
- Maternal Child and Health Consortium
- Mom's House
- North Star of Chester County
- Parkesburg Point
- Phoenixville Free Clinic
- Prepared To Thrive (New Grantee)
- Project Libertad (New Grantee)
- Safe Harbor of Chester County
- The 4th Trimester MAHMEE (New Grantee)
- The Bridge Academy and Community Center (New Grantee)
- The Garage Community and Youth Center
- YoungMoms



Kennett Area Community Services | *Grantee's photo



Mom's House | *Grantee's photo



Parkesburg Point | *Grantee's photo



Phoenixville Free Clinic | *Grantee's photo

CORE GRANTS



The 2024-2025 Core Grants
Cycle kicked off in December
2023, when grant applications
opened. Applicants from
throughout the county applied
for funding in one of three
priority areas: reproductive and
wellness care, gender-based
violence protection, and
economic empowerment. These
funding priorities align with our
Blueprint Report, allowing for a
multipronged approach to
addressing disparities and needs
for women and girls.

Core Grant applications are reviewed, applicants are interviewed, and final funding recommendations are made by our Core Grants Committee, which is comprised of diverse individuals from throughout the county. The Committee meets for four months, learning about the nonprofit sector, trust-based philanthropy, regional needs, and the unique needs of women and girls in Chester County. Utilizing their individual lived experiences, committee members work collaboratively to determine awardees.

This year, The Fund had the greatest number of applicants to date, receiving 43 applications totaling \$528,000 in requests.

The need for direct service is only growing, making funding determinations even more challenging. The Core Grants Committee members worked tirelessly to ensure thoughtful, inclusive funding recommendations.

IMPACT GRANTS

In 2018, The Fund launched the groundbreaking Impact Grants as a bold response to the unprecedented challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Recognizing the urgent need to tackle critical issues head-on, The Fund stepped up, turning necessity into action. The flexibility of these grants allows The Fund to swiftly address emerging needs, all while staying true to our commitment to trust-based philanthropy. **By closely collaborating with local organizations dedicated to serving women and girls, The Fund ensures real-time support reaches those who need it most, exactly when it matters.**

Grantee Partners: Making A Difference

Meet the grantees community partners providing direct services to women and girls across Chester County.

New Voters

New Voters meaningfully engages registered and eligible youth voters and increase voter turnout in all elections. This funding was used to host a training conference for students and school personnel in registering students to vote.

Amount: **\$3,000**



Cheyney University Pre-Law Club

(89% women)

This funding will be used to bring an LSAT prep course to Cheyney University's campus, to be taught in-person (or mainly in-person) to students interested in pursuing Law School after graduation. The expressed interest in such a course was made by the members of the newly formed Pre-Law Society at Cheyney University.

Amount: **\$2,500**

Black Women of Chester County in Action

This funding will be used to update BWCCA's website and #OurVoiceShouldBeHeard webpage as a voter education website.

Amount: **\$5,000**

Impact Grants W 10

"I feel the MOMentum of the volunteers, the committee and the attendees. I have inspiration NOW!"

- Single Mother's Conference Attendee -

Alliance for Health Equity

(previously Brandywine Health Foundation)

The Nonprofit Justice and Equity Institute is a cohort-based series of seven workshops targeted at the nonprofit sector to self-assess and become socially responsible for unintentional inequitable practices, programs, and processes within their organization's culture. The Institute provides them with the knowledge, tools, and capacity the organizations will need to address and eventually change organizational practices and policies that unintentionally created injustices and inequities.

Amount **\$10,000**

"With this support, our moms can focus on building a solid foundation for themselves and their families. This assistance empowers them to pursue and achieve their biggest dreams and passions."

- Guillermina Rios -Single Mother's Conference Attendee

Chester County Community Collaborative's Single Mother's Conference

The Single Mother's Conference is a free event, dedicated to single moms, created by the Chester County Community Collaborative.
The conference gathers local resources, speakers, workshops, and other programming focused on various aspects of the lives of single mothers including health, family, childcare, legal aid, finance, selfcare, work wardrobe, nutrition, and more. Funding assisted with the costs of running the conference including providing childcare at no charge to attendees.

Amount: \$1,000



GRANTMAKING IN ACTION



In Spring of 2024, The Fund launched a pilot program – Grantmaking In Action. This program's goal was to bring the incredible experiences and educational benefit of the GAB (Girls Advisory Board) program to youth that are unable to access the GAB program. Grantmaking In Action is a half day version of GAB that allows participants to learn about grantmaking and nonprofits, determine their funding priorities, and decide what organizations to fund. Participants are allotted \$1,000 to grant at each event. In addition to being a half day program, what makes this program accessible is that we go to the participants. It is crucial to meet people where they are - something we are honored to do.

In April we hosted participants at Barnstone Arts in Phoenixville. The program started with a high-level overview of the nonprofit sector, what a nonprofit is, how a nonprofit operates and is governed, and the importance of the nonprofit's mission. Next the group did a Blueprint Report review, taking 10 minutes to read to themselves, then breaking into small groups to answer questions about their thoughts on the report.

The group came back together to share their responses to the questions. There was extended conversations about the lack of financial education and the negative impact it has. The group also discussed the wage disparity, especially when race and ethnicity are taken into account. The group agreed that their funding priorities would be childcare and financial education.

After much consideration, Mom's House and ParkesburgPOINT had equal amounts of support and the participants decided to give each organization \$500.

"I learned so many things about our community. I think these events are very important for young girls to learn."

- K -Program Participant



In May, we hosted the Hermanitas Club from Kennett High School at Kennett Library. 21 young women in high school engaged in incredible conversations not only about the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors, but about the impacts of policies and institutions on themselves and their community. After learning about philanthropy and reviewing the Blueprint Report, there were extended conversations about advocacy, conflict resolution, racial and ethnic disparities and discrimination, education, and working with individuals who aren't ideologically aligned.

The group agreed that their funding priorities would be healthcare / reproductive wellness access and support for gender-based violence survivors. The group decided that they wanted to support one organization from both of the funding priorities and selected Health Care Access for the first priority and CVCC for the second priority, each organization receiving a \$500 unrestricted grant.

"I believe that this organization is an amazing non-profit foundation. I loved how we came together and spoke on behalf of those who are silenced."

- Program Participant -

"I liked how we could speak freely and just learned and discussed about real world issues among women.

Nothing about it made me uncomfortable, it was a safe space."

- Program Participant -

GAB(Girls+ Advisory Board)





GAB is entering it's 20th year!

This transformative program allows 10th -12th grade participants to learn all about philanthropy, grantmaking, and the needs of women and girls in Chester Couty. By experiencing grantmaking firsthand, including using Foundant, a new grantmaking software The Fund implemented this year, participants get incredible experiences and learn about the nonprofit sector, setting them up to be life-long philanthropists. After learning about using trust-based philanthropy and utilizing the Fourth Edition Blueprint Report, this past year's GAB participants chose the following funding priorities: LGBTQ+ rights, gender and reproductive rights, and immigration rights.



In the 2 years i've been with GAB, I can say for sure it has transformed me into a more confident person. I'm ready to stand up and advocate for things I believe in, and I know how to do so in a professional manner because of GAB. It's made me a better speaker, friend, and person.

Program Participant



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2023-2024 awardees: GA



LGBTQIA+ RIGHTS:

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

GRANTED \$1,500 for their 'SPOT' and 'Rainbow Phoenix' programs. These programs create two LGBTQIA+ Youth Spaces in Chester County: one in West Chester, PA, and one in Phoenixville, PA.

GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS:

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH CONSORTIUM

GRANTED \$3,500 for their 'Healthy Start' home-visiting program that provides a continuum of care for pregnant and parenting people with infants ages 0-18 months to reduce the prevalence of poor maternal health and birth outcomes.

YOUNGMOMS

GRANTED \$5,000 for case management that assess clients' needs, strengths, and support networks. They help clients set goals aligned with the 8 Dimensions of Wellness, recognizing the importance of holistic well-being.

MOM'S HOUSE

GRANTED \$3,000 for assistance providing free state-licensed childcare to single, low-income parents who are returning to school to complete their education.

LA COMUNIDAD HISPANA (LCH)

GRANTED \$3,500 for providing free breast screening/mammograph services for the 130 uninsured patients.



IMMIGRATION RIGHTS:

ALIANZAS:

GRANTED \$3,500 for the Clinical Trauma Counseling program which provides a multidisciplinary approach to mental health services for women, men & children suffering from depression and anxiety typically due to the traumas of before, during and after forced migration such as violence, acculturation stress, immigration issues and discrimination.



CivicG+

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CivicG+ (formerly GirlGov Chester County) is The Fund's civic engagement youth program. Participants in 10th-12th grade learn about the systems and institutions in our society that impact them, determine their own advocacy priorities based on their experiences and goals, and spend the session in breakout groups creating projects that will influence the change they want to see in the world. By engaging in hands-on experiences such as mock legislatures and community projects, participants develop a lifelong commitment to civic engagement. They emerge as informed, engaged citizens who continue to advocate for gender equity, social justice, and positive change throughout their lives.

What were the CivicG+ advocacy priorities for 2023-2024?



Education Advocacy

 Focused on ensuring all school districts in the county have student representatives on the school board

Economic Empowerment & the Gender Wage Gap

- Focused on addressing unaffordable childcare through policy reform
- Focused on addressing food insecurity through community gardens

Reproductive Justice

- Focused on addressing resource gaps through education and creating a virtual newsletter "The Femme Narrative; For Girls, By Girls"
- Focused on addressing discrepancies in PA Code around reproductive care access



BREAKFAST/LUNCHEON



Champions of Change Breakfast

The Fund's Champions of Change Breakfast recognizes individuals and organizations committed to women's economic advancement and equity in the workplace. The event highlights workplace policies and practices that advance women in the workplace and brings awareness of employment challenges for women in Chester County. The Fund celebrated not just the extraordinary achievements of individuals, corporations, and nonprofit workforce development organizations, but the unstoppable spirit that drives them to break barriers and champion women in the workplace.

This year, Susan Fiorentino, J.D. was honored as the Gladys Black "Woman of Distinction" and Countryside Consulting, Inc. was recognized for creating a work environment where women can thrive through flexible policies, remote work, and expansive hiring practices. The Nonprofit Workforce Development Award that includes a \$1,000 grant to support women in the workplace was Chester County OIC as the inaugural honoree for their support of women's job training and professional advancement.

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Making A Difference Luncheon

The 19th Annual Making a Difference Luncheon: Building an Equitable Future was a wonderful success!

The Fund celebrated our amazing 2024 Kitchen Table Award winner, Daicy Cañas, learned so much about the Care Economy in Chester County from our all-star panel - Arkell Lucas, CNM; Wendy McKeon, Talonda Rogers, MSN, RN; and Carrie Stare, and uplifted the voices of our incredible Core Grantees who are advancing women and girls in Chester County.

Our panelists spoke about the Care Economy in Chester County - touching on issues like challenges to accessing child care, the role of nurse midwives in maternal care, the barriers the LGBTQIA+ community experience in the healthcare system, and the importance of listening and believing women. Our Grantees joined us for our networking session – sharing the incredible work they to do directly support women and girls throughout Chester County.



FINANCIALS

As we navigate a period of transitions, our financials reflect adjustments that are laying the foundation for future growth. Despite the temporary decrease in revenue, we are confident that these changes will lead to an even greater impact. Our dedication to advocacy and grantmaking stays strong, and we're eager to continue making a meaningful difference for women and girls throughout Chester County.

		FY24*	FY23	
ASSETS	Current	580,160	666,851	
	Investments	4,680,164	4,343,106	PERCENTAGE
155	Other	61,280	84,225	BREAKDOWNS
4	Total	5,321,604	5,094,182	FY24*
LIABILITIES				Development
	Current	33,116	46,195	9%
	Right of Use - Lease Obligations	58,726	84,225	Admin 18%
	Net Assets	5,229,762	4,963,492	1878
LA	Total Net Assets & Liabilities	5,321,604	5,093,912	
				Programs
**	Grants Awarded	244,500	248,100	73%
SES	Program Expenses	331,037	293,248	FY23
EXPENSES	Management & General	144,285	128,266	Development
M	Development	67,620	124,981	16%
	Total Expenses	787,442	794,595	Admin
				16%
	Contributions	405,976	609,234	
5	Investment Income	254,884	273,822	Programs
REVENUE	Other	41,234	32,793	68%
E	Total Revenue	702,094	915,849	
	Surplus (Deficit)	(85,348) *unaudited	121,254	

Fund Financials



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