



## **Fostering Teenage Support Systems**

Request for Proposals

July 2018

### **Community Foundation of Westmoreland County**

The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County was founded in 1995 by local leaders of Westmoreland County to encourage philanthropy, build a sense of place, and embrace the spirit of community. Merging with The Pittsburgh Foundation in 2010, The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County continues to work with county residents to encourage that spirit of giving and investment in community organizations and residents. Our mission is to encourage local residents to become PHILANTHROPISTS, to provide GRANTS that support a wide variety of non-profit organizations, and to serve as a COMMUNITY LEADER.

### **The Youth Philanthropy Internship Program**

In 2017, the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County launched a summer Youth Philanthropy Internship Program. The purpose of the internship is to involve high school students in the community and to teach them about philanthropy. Interns spend the first part of the summer researching community needs and visiting local nonprofits to better understand the issues that are most pressing in our county. The internship culminates with youth developing their own RFP process around a community issue about which they are concerned. Our grantmaking team has chosen to focus on the importance of support in the lives of teenagers.

### **Statement of Need**

At the heart of our mission, the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County is called to serve the most vulnerable of our population. This includes teenagers in the age range of 12-18, who are in a transformative stage of life where they face uncertainty towards their relationships and aspirations. As youth interns, we understand the emotional state of teenagers, and we realize the importance of a strong support system. These systems are necessary in order to ensure that all teenagers in our community have an equal opportunity for future success.

It is evident that many teenagers lack access to sufficient support, thus putting them at a disadvantage. According to The Corporation for National & Community Service, there are 46 million young people, ages 8-18, in the United States; 16 million of them are growing up without a mentor. They also report that youth who have met and meet regularly with their mentors are 46% less likely than their peers to start using illegal drugs and 27% less likely to start drinking. Additionally, a Public Library of Science (PLOS) One study states that the two main factors to limit depression in at-risk teens are family support and teen friendships. These studies demonstrate the vast benefits of support in the lives of teenagers.

## **Grant Overview**

The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County's Youth Philanthropy Program is passionate about ensuring all teens in our community have a strong support system. We envision a world where all teens have access to meaningful relationships that give them a foundation for future success. We hope to address this issue among the most vulnerable teenagers in our county, specifically those who fall under 200% of the federal poverty line. The United States Census Bureau reports that 27% of people in Westmoreland County are living with an income under this line. We are interested in improving this by supporting programs that directly provide or promote such relationships. While the total amount to be disbursed is \$35,000, the average grant award will be in the range of \$5,000 - \$20,000. Please consider (and include, if applicable) additional sources of funding when submitting your project idea and grant request. The grantees will be required to be able to show how funds have been implemented, upon request, within a year's time.

## **Eligible Applicants**

Applicants must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization or an institution of higher education serving communities in Westmoreland County.

Examples of eligible programs include, but are not limited to:

- Mentoring and buddy programs
- Therapeutic services
- Community Involvement Programs

Grants will not be awarded for:

- Programs that do not directly benefit the age range of 12-18
- Programs that do not focus on teenagers with lower socioeconomic status
- Programs only operating outside of Westmoreland County

## Review and Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- The program takes place within Westmoreland County.
- The program benefits the age range of 12-18.
- Primary focus lies in improving the quality of life for teens in vulnerable situations.
- The proposed program exhibits quality and provides potential impact.
- The program maximizes partnerships to limit duplication of services through skill sharing, volunteer time, services provided, and the involvement of multiple organizations.
- The applying organization has a track record of success working with this population and the capacity for tracking measures of success.
- The proposal's budget and timeline are realistic.
- The program will improve the educational, social, emotional, and/or physical health of teenagers at or below 200% of the poverty line.

## Application Process

To apply for this funding opportunity, the application along with additional information can be found in our online system. You can access your existing organizational profile or create a new one at: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=pittsburgh>

*Fostering Teenage Support Systems* RFP released: **Friday, July 13, 2018**

Application Due Date: **Sunday, July 29, 2018 by Midnight EST**

Grantees Announced: **by Thursday, August 2, 2018**

RFP Check Presentation: **Thursday, August 9, 2018 at 5 PM**

Note: Selected applicants **must** send a representative (may be an employee, volunteer, board member, etc.) to an RFP check presentation ceremony at the Community Foundation Office on Thursday, August 9th at 5:00 PM.

## Questions

*Fostering Teenage Support Systems* is a program of The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. Assistance will be available to answer questions about the development of possible proposals or the completion of the application. Please direct RFP inquiries or questions regarding the Youth Philanthropy Internship Program to Courtney Williams at [YPIP@cfwestmoreland.org](mailto:YPIP@cfwestmoreland.org).

For technical assistance, please contact Jennifer Steinmetz at [steinmetzj@pghfdn.org](mailto:steinmetzj@pghfdn.org) or 412-394-4272.