



CFMC Grant Application

COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FOR FUNDING REQUESTS FOR THE Community Foundation of Middlesex County Competitive Cycle.

Instructions: Complete the application on the website. You may "Save and Continue Later" - the site will email you a link which is active for 30 days. Review instructions document for full details before completing. Complete all questions.

Section V requires certain documents to be uploaded to the form - see the Application Instructions Document for a list of the required items. All items must be uploaded as PDF Files. The CFMC Budget Summary form is available on the website in Word. This document must be submitted as PDF file as well.

I. Application Information

Legal Name of Organization

Covenant to Care for Children, Inc.

Division or Department Name (if applicable)

Other Tax Exempt Entity?

Are you a 501(c)3 Organization

Yes

EIN #

06-1241044

If your organization is not a 501(c) 3 tax exempt entity or division/department of a 170(c)1 government agency or religious organization, please contact Thayer Talbott, 860.347.0025, for further information before completing the application.

Total Cost associated with request \$

415,000

Dollar Amount Requested \$

5,000

Summary Statement

Grant funds will be used to provide basic essential and/or mandated goods to Connecticut children, birth to 18, who are abused, neglected, impoverished and/or otherwise at-risk. Thus providing basic essential goods (car seats, beds, cribs, clothing and more) in moments that are critical for a child's ability to thrive and a family's ability to stay together. The specific Middlesex County towns actually served will be determined by where the requests come from.

II. Funding Request Information

1. Proposal / Purpose

Our main purpose is the prevention of child removal from homes, reunification of families and preservation of families in Connecticut through the provision of basic needs. We strive for children's reduced risk of abuse and/or neglect through the provision of family support and essential items.

Most of these families have limited financial resources and are living at or below the poverty level. Now add the fact, that your child needs clothes as they continually grow, or a stroller, car seat or even a bed. Or that social workers could report them for the lack of essential basic goods and the child could be referred to DCF and foster care. These constant mental and financial stresses certainly add up over time and the family living situation becomes even more unstable. Which if not reversed, could lead to serious or near-death injuries as a result of child abuse or neglect and in rare cases child fatalities. This scenario may seem extreme, but unfortunately plays itself out all too often.

Often when a social worker does a home visit with their clients, they will notice that children are living in a high-risk environment and that the families are lacking very important basic essential goods like a bed or crib. Maybe the children do not have enough clean clothes or toiletry items, etc. Before a social worker reports a case of neglect or abuse, they reach out to their CCC partner about providing these items. CCC also provides these items so that children can be healthy, safe, smart and strong children. With funds from grantors, CCC purchases and delivers the goods needed in order to preserve and support a family in need. Referrals come from the Department of Children and Families and other family/youth service organizations.

Providing critical goods may not seem like much, but to that family, it could make the difference, by changing their direction, reducing family stresses and financial pressure. A positive occurrence, a feeling that someone cares, that they don't have to come up with the money for that item and monies can now go for vital prescriptions, rent, transportation and other necessities. The child also benefits from a calmer home environment and a better night's sleep so they can be more relaxed, receptive and productive in school.

Last year, through the grant provided by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, we were able to provide 20 at-risk Middlesex County children with 6 cribs, 2 strollers, 3 car seats, 8 beds, 13 mattresses plus a large quantity of pillows, blankets, sheets & towels. The breakdown for your grant is as follows: Middletown children: 18, Portland children: 2

15 African American, 3 Caucasian, 2 Middle Eastern

Female:12, Male: 7 and a newborn of unknown sex.

0-5 years: male 6, female 10, unknown 1

6-12 years: male 1, female 2

13-18 years:0

"Within the context of child development, the concept of toxic stress represents a child's intense, frequent and/or continued interaction with hardship and/or difficulty. Toxic stress can be the result of physical or emotional abuse, chronic neglect, caregiver substance abuse or mental illness, exposure to violence and/or a family's economic instability.

The negative effects of continued toxic stress on the child's brain are staggering. Prolonged activation of stress response systems in the early years can disrupt the development of brain architecture and lead to poor language development, behavioral problems, deficits in school readiness, aggression, anxiety, depression and impaired cognitive development.

These adverse childhood outcomes can have a cumulative impact over time, increasing the risk for cognitive impairment, the absence of life management skills, and an increase in stress-related diseases that extend well into the adult years. A child experiencing toxic stress has a greater likelihood of being unable to fully develop the executive function skills needed to regulate behavior and impulse control, thought to be essential for focusing and following directions. Ultimately, this has a detrimental effect on how the child functions in school, employment and personal relationships."

Scholars, Researchers and others have shown a great deal of interest in child maltreatment, one particular observation speaks volumes.

Wald (2015) states that there is solid evidence that the development of a substantial percentage of these children will be significantly impaired by the inability of their parents to provide basic essential goods with major risks to their academic, emotional, and social development. As a group, these children are less likely to succeed in school, more likely to engage in persistent delinquent activities, and much more likely to experience physical and mental health problems throughout life.

Michael S, Wald (2015). Beyond CPS: Developing an effective system for helping children in "neglectful" families. *Child Abuse & Neglect* 41:49--66.

CCC's Basic Essential Goods for Children model is designed to address a family's life situation and thus the material deficits of their poverty. We strive to embrace and help every child and young person that is at risk of abuse/neglect. Together we can provide hope and affect change. The emotional impact of maltreatment can last a lifetime and put children on a harmful path. While providing basic goods is only one leg of the stool, it helps to provide stability, reduce the risk of maltreatment and positively impact the course of a child's life. The lasting benefit is the stabilization of the lives of these disadvantaged youth; thereby enabling them to thrive as adults.

2. Sustainability and Assessing Impact

Success will be defined by addressing the emotional and economic stress on families by reducing or eliminating the chances that a child who is at risk will be abused, neglected, uncared for or removed from the home, thus unifying and preserving families. In helping families, the program meets the immediate and basic human and survival needs, of disadvantaged children and their families in order to stabilize their living situation.

While we deal with the numbers, we must not and will not, ever lose sight of the fact that for those children or that one child, a new bed can make all the difference. They won't be at risk of going into the DCF system, their whole life's trajectory can change in an instant.

As part of the Results Based Accountability (RBA) service delivery network, we work with the State of Connecticut and other similar child community service providers to collaboratively build a database of statistical results. Covenant to Care for Children also takes feedback from Social Workers and Liaisons from the community to see what changes we can make to our programs to improve services. Data is entered into a database, that is compiled quarterly, submitted to the Department of Children and Families, and reviewed by the board. Data includes the number of children served, number and value of goods provided, broken down by DCF sub-region and by town, if requested. Demographic data is included along with the reason for the request: Family Support, Family Preservation, Foster/Adoption Support, Reunification, Independent Living, Mandated by the Court. CCC's Board and senior staff review these quarterly results in light of our strategic plan, the broader and more long-term view of what these clients need to achieve a healthy and fulfilling adulthood, alternative strategies and programs (including prospects for collaboration) and cost-effectiveness.

The output and outcome of the data that we collect reveals how many abused, neglected, and/or impoverished children we are serving and what has been provided to meet the need. Quarterly key indicator reports are provided to the board of directors and there is discussion about the results in light of the strategic plan. Additionally, a year-end report, measures the number of children served, deliverables provided and the cost of deliverables. We attribute change or prevention of loss to program activities when the requesting social worker reports our activities as necessary for the outcome that is sought. A scorecard, is created, comparing the data with the Strategic Plan. Key indicators are discussed by the board and there is discussion about the results in light of the strategic plan specific to cost effectiveness, the number of service units, and the outcomes achieved such as goods and services provided by CCC that resulted in family preservation, reunification of a child with their caregiver or a more stable home environment, thereby enabling a child to concentrate on school.

With 36 years of experience providing services, adaptability is key. Data is compiled quarterly. The board reviews and makes

adjustments to the current needs environment. Procurement, procedures and delivery options are in place and analyzed yearly to adjust to changing conditions.

When necessary, program procedures are changed for greater efficiency. This analysis along with the executive director and staff input allow us to make the necessary course corrections to continue to deliver services as efficiently and effectively as possible.

CCC has a history of running a fiscally lean operation in order to deliver the maximum in goods and services to the children. As such, we have been able to survive numerous economic downturns, state financing cuts and Covid.

III. Grant Program / Project Information

Organization Area of Impact (choose ONE)

Public / Social Benefit (Civic Improvement/ Social Service)

Grant Type (choose ONE)

Program Development/Implementation

Target Demographics (Select all that apply):

- Youth (ages 13-17)
- Children (ages 6-12)
- Birth to 5 years old

Geographic Area(s) Served By This Application:

- Chester
- Clinton
- Cromwell
- Deep River
- Durham
- East Haddam
- East Hampton
- Essex
- Haddam
- Killingworth
- Middlefield
- Middletown
- Old Saybrook
- Portland
- Westbrook

Total Number of People in Middlesex County Personally Impacted

20

IV. Organization Information

Board of Directors / Trustees Information

Percent (%) of Directors/Trustees who contribute annually to Operations

Total Number of Directors/Trustees:

5

75% or more

Average number attending in person:

4

Total Number of Board meetings held last year:

4

Year of Return:

2021

Date most recent IRS Form 990 was filed:

February 2023

Organization's Total Operating Budget

480011

Organization's Fiscal Year

July 1 - June 30

Division Operating Budget Information

National Organization Chapter Information

Did you RECEIVE a competitive process grant in the:

- 2022-2023 process (fall 2022 or spring 2023)

Brief Background Statement of the Organization:

In 1987, two professional women dedicated to the mission of addressing the needs of neglected children founded Covenant to Care. One woman was a social worker at the Department of Children and Families, and the other, an employee of the Christian Conference of Churches. Together they saw an opportunity to help the children in Connecticut lead safe, healthy and happy lives, by connecting them with the resources they need. Over 36 years later, we continue to provide basic essential goods to at-risk children throughout the state of CT, thanks to the generosity of the state, foundations, corporations, individuals and volunteers.

V. Additional Information To Be Included with the Application

Please Note: Additional information requested below MUST be uploaded in PDF files. Other document formats will not be accepted by the application form. Attempts to upload other file formats could result in a loss of all application data entered.

A. Current Organization Operations Budget (Required)

- [CCC-Organizational-FY24-Budget-footnote.pdf](#)

B. Board of Directors and Officers List (Required)

- [CCC-BoD-FY24-Feb.-24-Basic.pdf](#)

C. IRS Tax Exempt Determination Letter

- [CCC-Hartford-IRS-Determination-Letter.pdf](#)

D. For Program/Project Requests only - CFMC Budget Summary Form:

- [CFMC-Budget-Summary-24-with-funders.pdf](#)

E. Organizations serving a region greater than Middlesex County - county-based budget summary:

- [MC-Operational-Program-Budget-Summary-24-with-funders.pdf](#)

F. America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

No

ARPA Funding detail

Additional financial documentation, including the organization's most recent audit, annual report, and IRS Form 990 may also be required. Only provide this information if requested.

For programs or projects which are collaborations among two or more organizations or where an organization provides in-school or after-school programming for schools, the Community Foundation requires a list of organizations or schools partnering with your organization as well as Letters of Support.

For the purposes of this application, collaborations are defined as partnerships where two or more agencies are committed through staffing, funding, and resource allocation to the goals and objectives of the program described. Because the nature of the collaboration requires two or more entities to work together, for the purposes of funding, only one organization may complete the application, and in doing so, accepts responsibility for all evaluative and fiduciary reporting.

For all collaborations, the Community Foundation requires letters of support from the non-applicant organization(s) and/or from the school(s) and school district(s) at which the applicant organization is the program.

Is this application in collaboration with a School(s) or School District(s)?

No

Is this application a collaboration of two or more nonprofit organizations (NOT schools)?

No

If this is an On-Going Collaboration, how long has the collaboration existed?

If Yes, is this a New or On-Going Collaboration?

List of Collaborators

Letters of Support (if a collaboration with schools or other nonprofits))

VI. Organization Contact Information

Are you a new nonprofit applicant to the Community Foundation?

No

Title

Executive Director

Executive Officer's Name

Dr. David Santis

Executive Officer Email

dsantis@covenanttocare.org

Phone

(860) 243-1806

Title

Executive Director

Contact Person

David Santis

Application Contact Email

dsantis@covenanttocare.org

Phone

(860) 243-1806

Mailing Address

1477 Park Street, Suite 208
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
United States

Street Address

Connecticut
United States

Website

www.covenanttocare.org

Social Media Channels

facebook.com/covenanttocare

VII. Non-Funding Needs

We are always looking for board members and volunteers to expand our effectiveness, diversity and fill in any areas of geographic weakness.

VIII. Marketing and Public Relations

Organizations receiving grants from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County must promote their funding awards according to the marketing and public relations guidelines established by the Community Foundation. By signing the application below, the CEO/Executive Director understands the Community Foundation's marketing and public relations requirements if awarded a grant. The Community Foundation will host a seminar on marketing guidelines and tips for grantees annually. The Community Foundation's Grantee Communications Kit may be downloaded on our website in the Nonprofit Resources section, middlesexcountycf.org/nonprofits/resources/forms-pr-guidelines/.

IX. Tax Exempt Standing and Use of Grant Funding Certification

By signing this application, the CEO/Executive Director/Board President is certifying that your organization is a qualified 501c3 organization or other charitable organization recognized and currently in good standing with the IRS, or 170(c)(1) governmental agencies. Should a grant be approved by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, these funds may only be used for the purpose outlined in your original application; you must notify us if you are unable to do so. If grant funding is provided, you may only use these funds for charitable purpose as described in Section 170(c)2 of the IRS code, and funds may not be used for any political or lobbying activity. In addition, no tangible benefits, goods or services may be received by our donors or by staff members of the Community Foundation of Middlesex County in exchange for grant funding.

Signature Certification

I certify that my printed name as stated and assigned below constitutes my signature and may be accepted as such.

Title

Executive Director

Printed Name

David V Santis

Date

03/06/2024