

# 2020 GREATER HARRISBURG COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION DATE DUE: AUGUST 1, 2020

Thank you for applying to the Benjamin Franklin Trust Fund of the Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation, a regional foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Tell your story clearly and concisely. Attachments are required; follow all directions. Failure to answer questions, utilize this template, or provide required materials will disqualify your application. **Answer all questions using information that applies to the project seeking support of grant funds.** Contact Jennifer Strechay, Program Officer for Community Investment, at 717-236-5040 or [jstrechay@tfec.org](mailto:jstrechay@tfec.org) with questions.

## APPLICANT SNAPSHOT

### Applicant Organization Name

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg

*Provide your organization's name as currently recognized by the IRS*

- Check box if the Applicant Organization Name above is a "Doing Business As" name and the provided 501c3 letter states a different name. To be recognized by the "Doing Business As" name, attach ONE legal document using the provided name. If not provided, TFEC will utilize the 501c3 name.**
- Check box if the Applicant Organization uses a Fiscal Sponsor and provide name here**  
*Click or tap here to enter text.*

### Name, Title, Email, Phone of Executive Leader

Dr. Mark A. Totaro, Ph.D., [MTotaro@cchbg.org](mailto:MTotaro@cchbg.org), (717) 657-4804 Ext. 272

*All contracts and notifications of grant status will be addressed to the individual provided here*

### Applicant Organization's Physical Address

4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111

### Applicant Organization's Address for Mailed Communications

4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111

*All contracts and notifications of grant status will be sent to the address provided here*

### Name, Title, Email, Phone of Contact Completing Application

Ms. Carole A Klinger, Director of Administration, [CKlinger@cchbg.org](mailto:CKlinger@cchbg.org), (717)657-4804 Ext. 277

*If application questions arise, this individual will be contacted by TFEC staff*

### Counties to be served as part of project; check all that apply.

- Cumberland
- Dauphin
- Franklin
- Juniata
- Mifflin
- Lebanon
- Perry
- Northern York (Dillsburg Area)

## PROJECT NARRATIVE

Answer questions 1-5 clearly and concisely; no limit (except for Project Snapshot)

**PROJECT TITLE** Empowering Women for Success

*Project Title must match title listed throughout application and online*

### APPLICANT ORGANIZATION MISSION STATEMENT

Based in Dauphin County, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg (Catholic Charities) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides human services to people throughout 15 counties in South Central Pennsylvania. Catholic Charities is dedicated to responding to the human service needs of people regardless of their age, race, gender, religion, or ability to pay. The vision of Catholic Charities is to provide help and create hope for the region's most vulnerable individuals, regardless of their circumstances. The mission of Catholic Charities is to foster the ideas of Christ by providing help, compassion, and dignity to those who come to us in need. Catholic Charities does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

1. Capture your project and the community need it seeks to address in 200 words or less.

Catholic Charities is proposing a new initiative which features services and programs to meet the unique challenges faced by refugee and immigrant women in South Central Pennsylvania. Every day, immigrants and refugees are forced to navigate an unfamiliar and often unnerving new environment towards integration in their new societies. While employment is typically the most effective way to fast-track both social and economic integration, it may not be equally attainable for all, particularly for women. There is an urgent need to address the unique difficulties faced by immigrant and refugee women including changes in roles and status of family members, financial difficulties, employment, and language and communication barriers. The Empowering Women for Success Project will create opportunities for women to participate meaningfully in their communities. Catholic Charities recognizes that each human being has more than one identity. "Refugee" and "Immigrant" are only temporary terms; they do not reflect the whole identity of women who have left their homes behind to start a new life. The Empowering Women for Success Project will feature a variety of services designed to help women integrate into their new lives and become advocates for themselves, their families and communities.

### PROJECT NARRATIVE

2. Describe the proposed project, the geographic area it will serve, and the audience to be served; state why this audience was selected. You **MUST** use and complete the following statement within your answer, "Grant funds will be used to \_\_\_\_\_". Include when and where the project will take place. List dates and locations as appropriate in chronological order and state if provided dates/locations are confirmed, estimated, or to be determined.

Catholic Charities request to The Foundation for Enhancing Communities – GHCF Benjamin Franklin Trust Fund is to support The Empowering Women for Success Project (EWS or Project), a new initiative within Catholic Charities' Immigration and Refugee Services (IRS) Program. IRS assists a diverse population of legal entrants for who have been in the United States for less than five years through its Resettlement and Employment services. IRS also assist immigrants and refugees with English as a Second Language courses that are available to clients regardless of status or time in the United States. The primary goal of all IRS services is to help clients achieve economic and social self-sufficiency. Charities coordinates with state and federal governments to resettle hundreds of refugees each year, helping them adjust to new lives and newfound freedom. Catholic Charities is the sole provider of migration and refugee services in Dauphin County. As a local affiliate of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Catholic Charities provides local resettlement services for the U.S. Department of State under its umbrella contract with USCCB's Office of Migration and

Refugee Services. Catholic Charities' IRS Program includes pre-arrival coordination, reception and provision of basic needs, orientation, counseling and health services, housing, coordination with public agencies, and employment assistance, among others. In addition, Catholic Charities' IRS Program provides English as a Second Language classes, computer training, United States Civics/Citizenship classes, and job readiness and development training. In FY 18-19, Catholic Charities served 440 clients through one of the various IRS services – Employment Services, Resettlement Program, Match Program, Legal Advising, and English as a Second Language. More than 150 clients participated in English as a Second Language classes and 35 clients secured jobs through Employment Services.

Catholic Charities has experienced great success assisting immigrants and refugees integrate to the United States, and it now seeks to extend its service with EWS. Women face some of the greatest challenges when moving to the United States, including cultural conflicts, religious values, and English language proficiency. When immigrant and refugee families have little, the women are often the ones to go without. They neglect their own personal care and development to care for their families. Unfortunately, this often perpetuates their dependency on support services and hinders their ability to reach self-sufficiency.

The Project was created based on demand generated by clients from other existing IRS services. For example, there are 60 current/former clients of Catholic Charities' English as a Second Language classes currently receiving supplemental diapers from the Healthy Steps Diaper Bank. EWS would allow Catholic Charities to strengthen this partnership and provide a greater number of IRS clients with diaper assistance. Catholic Charities is actively reaching out to clients during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recent health outbreak has shown where there are gaps in the existing IRS services, particularly for women. The Project will not only expand the availability of resources, but create a more holistic approach to serving immigrant and refugee women in South Central Pennsylvania.

The Project provides tailored services to meet the unique needs of female immigrants and refugees. The goal of this new initiative is to assist women in gaining confidence, promoting economic self-sufficiency, education and empowerment. The Project will operate as a drop-in program to support and empower female clients through three categories of services – 1. Basic Needs and Healthy Living; 2. Economic Development; and 3. Social Adjustment. EWS aligns with the mission of the GHCF Benjamin Franklin Trust to improve the quality of life and inspire positive outcomes. Immigrants and refugees represent some of the most marginalized and vulnerable groups in the world facing a range of risk factors for poor health and wellbeing, including experiences of trauma, dislocation and violence, with associated loss of family and community support and ontological insecurity. EWS seeks to address the major factors for successful outcomes, such as finding employment, engaging in education, building social connections and accessing services.

The first category, Basic Needs and Healthy Living, is designed to combat basic needs insecurity. Food insecurity and proper nutrition are common challenges for immigrants and refugees, especially for women who are often responsible for preparing meals for their families. Catholic Charities recognizes food assistance in a manner that supports the ability of refugee women to retain or attain self-sufficiency is a key priority. Following the COVID-19 outbreak, female clients expressed difficulty in accessing foods they are familiar with at food banks. Clients would often receive pre-packaged pantry bags with items they did not understand or were not part of their traditional diets, hindering a family's ability to receive proper nutrition. The Project would assist women in securing not only dry goods, but fresh fruits and vegetables for their families that are also culturally appropriate. Catholic Charities would also coordinate with Penn State Hershey Medical to provide nutrition education classes for women so they can prepare fresh, nutritious, and enjoyable meals for their families. Penn State Hershey Medical is a long-standing partner of Catholic Charities for both IRS and other human service programs throughout the agency.

The first category, Basic Needs and Healthy Living, will also focus on two other basic health needs - menstrual hygiene and supplemental diapers. When you think of having a baby, and the items that are an absolute have, diapers are pretty close to the top of the list. For families on a limited or fixed income, the cost of diapers can be very overwhelming, and Catholic Charities has found diapers are on the most requested items by female clients. Diapers not only contain and control diseases, but promote long-term health for babies and their families. Diaper banks have proven useful in helping women meet the needs of their children which frees them to take better care of themselves. If choosing between purchasing diapers for their children or feminine hygiene products for themselves, women have reported they most

often choose purchasing diapers. By neglecting personal care, these women are often burdened with personal health issues which add additional physical and financial stress. The Project will provide women with access to diapers through the Healthy Steps Diaper Bank, allowing clients to redirect those savings towards rebuilding their lives and supporting their families.

Being uprooted from one's community and forced to flee one's home is a traumatizing experience. But when additional struggles are added to this hardship, including menstruation and a lack of access to any female hygiene products, it becomes that much more difficult to find any sense of peace during the experience. Refugee and immigrant services often prioritize shelter, food, and clothing over gender-specific products. EWS aims to preserve the dignity of refugee and immigrant women by providing clients with feminine hygiene products through PERIOD and Days for Girls.

The second category, Economic Development, is designed to equip refugee and immigrant women with the knowledge and resources to become economically self-sufficient through employment, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. Catholic Charities anticipates the following services to be included in this category – educational programming on how to enter the workforce, resume writing, exploring entrepreneurial opportunities, and English conversation. Catholic Charities anticipates educational programming will be offered via workshops, with at least four workshops in the first year. The specific services to be provided in this category will be dependent on topics identified by clients.

The final category, Social Adjustment, looks to create opportunities for immigrant and refugee women, who are often socially isolated, to participate meaningfully in their communities and encourage self-reliance. The services provided within this category are dependent on the needs of each female client. A referral service would allow clients to receive services from another program within the agency, as well as connect with other community organizations that can help clients integrate into their new lives in South Central Pennsylvania. Each client has their own path towards social adjustment, each with their own needs. It may be health and mental health services, counseling, home management, or work plan development. The Project would provide clients the opportunity connect with any of Catholic Charities' numerous community partners including: Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, Delta Transitional Housing (transitional housing), Brethren Housing Association (Transitional Housing & HPRP), YWCA Greater Harrisburg (job training), Hamilton Health Center (medical care), Penn State Hershey Medical Center (medical care), Capital Region Counseling Office Homeless Clinic (counseling), Head Start (child care), Harrisburg Area Community College (education), Mid-Penn Legal Service (free legal aid), Community Action Commission (Prepared Renter's Program and enrolling families in their 5 year self-sufficiency program), United States Department of Agriculture, PA Department of Public Welfare, Salvation Army, Boys & Girls Club, Center for Independent Living, Executive Commission on Drugs & Alcohol, Catholic Charities Capital Counseling Office, Case Management Unit, Family Promise, Child Line, Children & Youth Services, New Hope Church/Partnership For Hope, and Shining Light.

EWS would also encourage all clients who access the resources of this initiative to give back to their communities by volunteering at least one hour a month to the Project, such as volunteering as an interpreter. This volunteer experience and the skills gained by the Project can be later added to their resumes when the desire to enter the workforce.

The geographic service area of EWS will be the same geographic area served by other Catholic Charities IRS service – Harrisburg-Carlisle Metropolitan Statistical Area. Currently, Catholic Charities is working with refugees from Bhutan, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Congo, and Somalia, among other countries. In addition to refugee clients, the ESL program works with immigrants from another 40 countries. Catholic Charities anticipates the Project would serve similar populations. Catholic Charities anticipates serving 100 women in the first year of operations. Catholic Charities is requesting \$1,000 from the GHCF Benjamin Franklin Trust Fund. Grant funds will be used to support personnel costs (\$975) and staff training (\$25).

The Project will be located at Catholic Charities IRS offices at 939 East Park Drive, Suite 104, Harrisburg, PA 17111. The Catholic Charities will use all awarded funds between January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021, as outlined by grant guidelines. The Project is estimated to begin January 1, 2021; however, that date may change due to the recent health pandemic and coordination with local community partners.

## FUNDING

3. Restate the amount you are seeking from TFEC and describe any other funding sources and amounts. If this proposal is not funded at the level requested, will you be able to implement the project as stated? Explain as needed.

Catholic Charities is requesting \$1,000 from the GHCF Benjamin Franklin Trust Fund to support personnel costs (\$975) and staff training (\$25). Catholic Charities has submitted \$29,000 in other private foundation requests to support the remaining EWS costs. Catholic Charities will not be able to implement all the proposed components of EWS without the full support of the Benjamin Franklin Trust Fund. EWS is a new initiative within Catholic Charities IRS Program. Catholic Charities will be able to sustain beyond the grant year, and significantly reduce personnel and supply costs with Messiah University's commitment, but the requested grant funds are necessary to get the Project up and running.

Messiah University will be a key partner in the long-term success of the proposed IRS initiative. Additional details on Messiah University's role can be found in the Sustainability section of this grant application. Messiah University has been a long-standing partner of the Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Program, through volunteer opportunities and in-kind assistance. Due to COVID-19, the continuation of Messiah University's VISTA Campus Compact Program has been delayed; however, the University is committed to partnering with Catholic Charities in the upcoming year to ensure the sustainability of the Project. A key sustainability feature will be Messiah University's VISTA Campus Compact position within EWS. This new position will eliminate a significant portion of personnel costs for Catholic Charities, as the position will be filled by a VISTA worker funded through Messiah University's involvement in the VISTA Campus Compact Program. A letter of commitment from Messiah University is included with this submission.

## PROJECT SUCCESS

4. What will project success look like and how will project success be measured and documented (i.e.: how will you know the project is successful? Are you collecting value statements, numbers served, surveys, photos, before and after images, or using other methods)?

Project success is defined as the enrollment of 100 immigrant and refugee women. EWS is designed to transform the lives of immigrant and refugee women in South Central Pennsylvania by addressing basic needs insecurity, providing opportunities for education and job training, and empowering women to become self-sufficient. Clients will have access to nutritious food, hygiene products, diapers, and other basic goods to ensure a healthy lifestyle. Catholic Charities goes beyond meeting basic needs, providing women with educational opportunities and workforce training to strengthen women's abilities to be leaders in their homes, businesses, and communities. EWS also encourages volunteerism by former clients to increase capacity to access community resources and encourage long-term sustainability.

Catholic Charities anticipates the first year of EWS will serve 100 women and success will be measured by how the services perform against established goals. Catholic Charities developed a target percentage for each service component of EWS, as outlined below.

1. Referral Services - 20% of clients will be given referrals to local service organizations.
2. Educational Programming – A minimum of four workshops will occur during the year and 30% of clients will participate.
3. Diaper Bank: 75% of clients will have access to supplemental diapers.
4. Feminine Hygiene Products: EWS will distribute products monthly and 60% of clients will have access to this service.
5. Food Assistance: EWS will provide shelf-stable foods and baby formula for women in need. 20% of clients will have access to this service.
6. Volunteer Experience: All clients who participate in EWS will be encouraged to volunteer an hours to the EWS. 15% of clients will volunteer.

## **ACCESS & INCLUSION**

5. As a community foundation, TFEC fosters a climate of purposeful inclusion that values diversity of gender, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, range of abilities, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. Please state how your project will be made accessible to all individuals who qualify for participation in the project and describe any accommodations, modifications, technologies, or services you will offer to ensure that all eligible participants experience the best possible services or outcomes.

Catholic Charities IRS Program has a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual staff who are dedicated to teaching people how to achieve success and self-sufficiency. Catholic Charities IRS Program has successfully served individuals from a wide variety of countries and cultures and is dedicated to ensuring that each client receives the services that he/she needs, regardless of background. When a family enrolls in any of Catholic Charities' IRS services, staff take into account any cultural needs, special dietary restrictions, or language limitations. Staff receive cultural diversity training on an annual basis. Staff members are required to have current State Police and Child Abuse Clearances, and must pass the Diocesan web-based training class on child protection. In addition, all staff receive ongoing training in CPR and First Aid, food and fire safety, mental health, drug & alcohol issues, resource coordination and services for families, ethics, and topics related to client interaction. EWS will abide by Catholic Charities' anti-discrimination policy.

## BUDGET WORKSHEET

*Complete the Budget Worksheet below; a Project Total is required.*

ITEM OR SERVICE <i>Examples include: Contracted Services, Equipment, Personnel, Supplies; list your own as appropriate.</i>	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM OR SERVICE	REQUESTED GRANT FUNDS <i>List where funds sought through this grant opportunity will be applied.</i>	OTHER FUNDING SOURCES <i>List the names and amounts of all other funding sources.</i>	PENDING, COMMITTED, OR RECEIVED <i>Using a P, C, or R, indicate the status of all funding sources.</i>	\$ TOTALS <i>Add across to provide a total for each row. Total columns as indicated in bottom row.</i>
Salary/Benefits	Staff Salaries	\$975	Diocesan Subsidy, Real Alternatives, Donations & Event	P	<b>\$20,975</b>
Staff Training	Agency sponsored training, books, and memberships	\$25	Diocesan Subsidy, Real Alternatives, Donations & Event	P	<b>\$1,425</b>
Communication	Telephone & Postage	\$0	Diocesan Subsidy, Real Alternatives, Donations & Event	P	<b>\$0</b>
Occupancy	Rent, utilities, maintenance, and taxes	\$0	Diocesan Subsidy, Real Alternatives, Donations & Event	P	<b>\$3,000</b>
Equipment/Repairs	Equipment & repairs	\$0	Diocesan Subsidy, Real Alternatives, Donations & Event	P	<b>\$1,200</b>
Travel	Transportation costs	\$0	Diocesan Subsidy, Real Alternatives, Donations & Event	P	<b>\$0</b>
Program Supplies	Meals/snacks, clothing, over the counter items, household paper supplies	\$0	Diocesan Subsidy, Real Alternatives, Donations & Event	P	<b>\$3,400</b>
Advertising/Printing	Advertising, letterhead, business cards	\$0	Diocesan Subsidy, Real Alternatives, Donations & Event	P	<b>\$0</b>

Indirect	Not Applicable	\$0	Diocesan Subsidy, Real Alternatives, Donations & Event	P	\$0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$1,000</b> <b>Total: Requested Grant Funds</b>	<b>\$29,000</b> <b>Total: Other Funding Sources</b>		<b>\$30,000</b> <b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>





**Catholic Charities Board Members (as of July 18, 2020)**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Term Begins</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
<b>Richard Berrones</b>	Senior Director, Flight Operations	Middletown, PA	11/2014	12/31/2020
<b>Norm Basso</b>	CPCU Risk Analysis, CEO/Principal	York, PA	4/18/2018	12/31/2021
<b>Maria DiSanto</b>	Human Resource Specialist	Harrisburg, PA	01/2016	12/31/2021
<b>Brian P. Downey</b>	Attorney	Mechanicsburg, PA	04/2011	12/31/2020
<b>David S. Gash</b>	Staff Representative – AFSCME District Council #90	Hershey, PA	04/2013	12/31/2022
<b>Barbara Yohn Groce</b>	Retired	Harrisburg, PA	04/2013	12/31/2022
<b>Camille Kostelac-Cherry, Esq.</b>	Attorney & Executive Director	Harrisburg, PA	11/2006	12/31/2021
<b>Walter Legenstein</b>	Business Owner	Lancaster, PA	01/2006	12/31/2021
<b>Rev. Paul M. Clark</b>	Canonical Services	Dauphin, PA	07/2019	12/31/2022
<b>Zenoria McMorris Owens</b>	Volunteer & Activist	Harrisburg, PA	04/2013	12/31/2022
<b>John Pagana, M. D.</b>	Physician	Sunbury, PA	11/2009	12/31/2021
<b>Valerie Pritchett</b>	TV News Anchor	Harrisburg, PA	02/2016	12/31/2021
<b>Louis F. Santangelo</b>	Business Owner	Hershey, PA	02/2015	12/31/2020
<b>Joseph Schatt</b>	Personnel Management Professional	Camp Hill, PA	11/2001	12/31/2022
<b>Jeffrey Tearpock</b>	Director-Cash Management & Disbursements	Ephrata, PA	04/2013	12/31/2022
<b>Ron Turo</b>	Attorney	Mount Holly Springs, PA	01/2016	12/31/2021
<b>Luis Villegas</b>	Engineer	Harrisburg, PA	01/2017	12/31/2020
<b>Jim Weber</b>	Business Owner	Lancaster, PA	2/2018	12/31/2021
<b>Sheilah Borne</b>	Assistant VP of Government Health Relations PSH Health, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center	Harrisburg, Pa	2/2019	12/31/2022
<b>Gayla Molinelli</b>	Retired- Hershey Trust	Harrisburg, Pa	04/2019	12/31/2022
<b>Clark Tomlinson</b>	Business Owner	Lancaster, PA	07/2019	12/31/2022

June 26, 2020

Ms. Jennifer Strechay  
Program Officer for Community Investment  
The Foundation for Enhancing Communities  
200 North 3rd Street, 8th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

**RE: Catholic Charities Immigrant and Refugee Services – Empowering Women for Success Project  
2020 Greater Harrisburg Foundation’s Benjamin Franklin Trust Fund**

Dear Ms. Strechay:

On behalf of Employment Skills Center, I am writing in support for Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services Program – Empowering Women for Success Project. It is my understanding that Catholic Charities is requesting grant funds to expand the available services for immigrant and refugee women. While all refugees confront countless challenges, women and girls face additional challenges and risks due to multiple factors. The Empowering Women for Success Project will provide care that is tailored for immigrant and refugee women, respecting their dignity and seeing their inherent potential for success.

Employment Skills Center’s mission - to help people achieve personal growth and job betterment through education and training, aligns with Catholic Charities’ Empowering Women for Success Project. Among many highlights, this new initiative will assist women entering the workforce with resume assistance, explore entrepreneurial opportunities, and English conversation skills, among other topics. The Empowering Women for Success Project will build off the success of Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services Program to effectively stabilize clients, increase language proficiency, and improve employability. The requested grant funds will provide refugee women with the tools and resources to become confident, empowered, and self-sufficient.

We are pleased to offer our support for Catholic Charities’ grant request and look forward to expanding our relationship with the Immigration and Refugee Services Program through this new initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Mindy Tremblay  
Executive Director

July 9, 2020

Ms. Jennifer Strechay  
Program Officer for Community Investment  
The Foundation for Enhancing Communities  
200 North 3rd Street, 8th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

**RE: Catholic Charities Immigrant and Refugee Services – Empowering Women for Success Project  
2020 Greater Harrisburg Foundation’s Benjamin Franklin Trust Fund**

Dear Ms. Strechay:

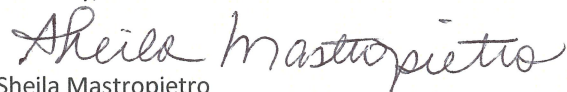
On behalf of Church World Service, I would like to convey my support for Catholic Charities’ grant request through the Greater Harrisburg Foundation’s Benjamin Franklin Trust Fund for the Immigration and Refugee Services – Empowering Women for Success (EWS) Project. The requested grant funds will support EWS, a new initiative within Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services Program, designed to provide services for immigrant and refugee women that fosters dignity, self-sufficiency, and well-being.

Church World Service is dedicated to building a world where there is enough for all and providing sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. For several years, Church World has coordinated with Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services Program to provide the most vulnerable refugees with an opportunity to start again in the United States. Addressing shelter needs, providing hygiene supplies, and helping children access education, are among the many complex barriers faced by refugee women. The proposed new initiative is designed to empower immigrant and refugee women who often have the least access to community benefits.

Catholic Charities’ new EWS initiative, founded on helping immigrant and refugee women reach self-sufficiency and full participation in their communities, takes a multifaceted approach to empowerment. By creating educational programming, EWS will help immigrant and refugee women grow skills in English, workforce entry, and others. Coupled with EWS’s proposed job experience program, which will provide clients with opportunities to gain job experience performing activities such as interpreting and stocking shelves, this initiative will be invaluable in helping women participate fully in their local community and economy. Beyond that, EWS will establish a culturally appropriate food bank to help clients gain access to the foods they are familiar with to help maintain their nutrition and traditional diet. These are just a few examples of the good this program—which includes other components such as referral services, a diaper bank, and the provision of female hygiene products—seeks to advance.

Church World Service recognizes the benefit of these intended services to the clients of Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services Program. We encourage your favorable consideration of this initiative. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Sheila Mastropietro  
CWS-Lancaster  
Lancaster Office Director



AGAPÉ CENTER FOR  
SERVICE LEARNING

Ms. Jennifer Strechay  
Program Officer for Community Investment  
The Foundation for Enhancing Communities  
200 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

**RE: Catholic Charities  
Immigration and Refugee Services – Empowering Women for Success Project  
Letter of Commitment for Sustainability**

Dr. Ms. Strechay:

On behalf of Messiah University's Agapé Center, I am pleased to offer my support for Catholic Charities' grant request to The Foundation for Enhancing Communities and offer our commitment to serve as a partner in the Empowering Women for Success Project, a new initiative within the Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services Program. A successful grant award will allow Catholic Charities to purchase supplies and support personnel costs as they kick-off this new service, and Messiah University is committed to serving as a partner in subsequent years via our VISTA Campus Compact Program.

Messiah University has been a long-standing partner of the Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services Program, through volunteer opportunities and in-kind assistance. Due to COVID-19, the continuation of Messiah University's VISTA Campus Compact Program has been delayed; however, the University is committed to partnering with Catholic Charities in the upcoming year to ensure the sustainability of the Empowering Women for Success Project. A key sustainability feature will be Messiah University's VISTA Campus Compact position within the Empowering Women for Success Project. This new position will eliminate significant personnel cost for Catholic Charities, as the position will be filled by a VISTA worker funded through Messiah University's involvement in the VISTA Campus Compact Program.

Messiah University believes that the dignity of each human being ought to be elevated regardless of their gender, religion, or nation of origin. We recognize that female immigrants and refugees often face insurmountable hurdles when coming to the United States. The Empowering Women for Success Project will help women overcome these hurdles by providing them with referral services; job training opportunities; a diaper bank; menstrual care products, which they often

cannot afford; a culturally appropriate food bank; and other services which will help them advance themselves. We have the utmost confidence that this expanded partnership will lead to a sustainable and successful program for immigrant and refugee women in Central Pennsylvania.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashley Sheaffer".

Ashley Sheaffer  
Director of the Agapé Center  
Messiah University  
717.766.2511 x7235  
asheaffer@messiah.edu

## 2020 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TRUST FUND SIGN & SUBMIT FORM

Provide signatures from the applicant organization, below. Both organization representatives must sign.

*By providing your original OR digital signature below, you agree that the provided information in this application is true to the best of your knowledge and may be submitted for review. Completion of this form is one component of your Complete Application.*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>President/CEO</b>	_____	Dr. Mark A. Totaro, Ph.D.
		Ink Signature	Digital Signature
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Board President</b>	_____	Brian Downey
		Ink Signature	Digital Signature

### REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO BE UPLOADED & SUBMITTED BY 4PM IN THE DEADLINE DATE

*All grant materials must be submitted through the TFEC online application system by 4pm on the deadline date. This grant opportunity does not utilize delivered or mailed materials.*

- Complete Application:** Applicant Snapshot, Project Narrative, Budget Worksheet, and Sign & Submit Form with original or digital signatures.
- Board of Directors List:** Professional affiliations (ie: work positions and/or titles as applicable) must be included.
- Letters of support are OPTIONAL for this grant opportunity but must be uploaded by the deadline date. No more than TWO letters of support with original or digital signatures may be provided.** Letters of support from the applicant organization's Board of Directors will not be accepted; identical form letters are discouraged.
- Applicants who utilize a FISCAL SPONSOR** must include a letter signed by the Executive Leader of the Fiscal Sponsor organization indicating agreement to serve as the Fiscal Sponsor. An original or digital signature is required.
- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter**
- 1st Page of Applicant Organization's Most Recent 990.** If 990 is not available, upload applicant organization's most recent audit or financial statement.

### QUESTIONS

If you should have any questions regarding this form or TFEC grant opportunities, contact Jennifer Strechay, Program Officer for Community Investment, at [jstrechay@tfec.org](mailto:jstrechay@tfec.org) or 717-236-5040.