

Project Spotlight:

CCRES Educational & Behavioral Health Services



Project Type:

Grant Process & Rubric Development

Timeline: February - May 2026

About the Client

CCRES provides staffing solutions to school districts and social service agencies across southeastern Pennsylvania. Founded in 1999 through a partnership with the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU), CCRES was created to help meet the growing need for behavioral health services for children in Chester County and to serve as a vehicle for giving back to the community. Since then, CCRES has grown to support children, families, and adults with a range of behavioral health, intellectual, developmental, and physical needs, while also providing experienced school administrators and other professionals to educational agencies throughout the region. CCRES also gives back to the community through grants and scholarship programs that support educational advancement, workforce development, and other community needs.



Project Scope

CCRES engaged Anavi Strategies to strengthen its grant-making processes and prepare for the 2026–2027 grant cycle. The work focused on creating a more streamlined approach to grant management, including a new review rubric, stronger compliance and post-award guidelines, and guidance to support consistent implementation across the full grant-making process.



Photo Credit: CCRES

Methodology & Project Activities

Anavi Strategies used a collaborative and iterative approach, working closely with the CCRES grant team to develop and update grant management tools and refine them based on staff feedback. The project included the following activities:

Current State Assessment	Compiled and reviewed existing grant materials and tested the online application through CCRES' newly established grant portal.
Engaged the CCRES Grant Team	Facilitated a series of virtual and in-person working sessions to discuss grant guidelines, clarify processes, and gather feedback throughout the project.
Grant-Making Research	Reviewed nonprofit grant-making practices and relevant IRS and Pennsylvania legal requirements to inform CCRES' updated grant management approach.
Developed Grant Guidelines	Created written guidance addressing application and eligibility requirements, discretionary decisions and exceptions, the grant review and decision-making process, and routine communications.
Developed the Grant Review Rubric and Scoring Tool	Designed a standardized 0-5 scoring framework to support consistent application review across key criteria. Developed a corresponding scoring sheet for reviewers to document assessments and generate total scores to inform application prioritization and funding recommendations.
Strengthened Award and Reporting Processes	Developed guidance for grant award documentation, including an award letter and draft grant agreement, as well as reporting requirements and timelines.
Finalized the Grant Management Framework	Incorporated CCRES staff feedback and finalized six grant guidelines and the review rubric for use throughout the grant review and award process.

Project Outcomes

The updated grant management framework provided CCRES a more structured and consistent approach to reviewing applications, making funding decisions, and managing awards. New guidelines, a standardized review rubric and scoring tool, and clearer award and reporting processes created a stronger foundation for managing the grant cycle.

Four months after the project concluded, CCRES reported that many of these changes were already being put into practice. Applications were submitted electronically, staff used a more standardized process to assess funding requests, and CCRES made more deliberate decisions about both award amounts and organizational alignment. The organization also declined funding requests that did not align with its mission, reflecting greater clarity and consistency in how grant-making decisions are made.



Photo Credit: CCRES



Photo Credit: CCRES