



County of Marin Community Service Fund Program Application Form

Application Date March 28, 2018

Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

Organization Information

Full Legal Name: Canal Alliance

Organization URL: Canal Alliance

Mission/purpose of your organization:

The primary mission of Canal Alliance is to help low-income Spanish speaking immigrants overcome the generational cycle of poverty and thrive.

Grant Request Information

Program/Project Name: Canal Alliance Solar Installation

Amount Requested Dollar: \$10,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$131,750.00

Description of the proposed project/program, including the proposed project's goal(s), and the nature of the costs in specific terms, i.e. materials, labor costs, etc. Specifics of how the requested County funds will be used.

On October 1, 2016, upon assuming the role of Executive Director, Omar Carrera conducted an evaluation of Canal Alliance programs, at which time he learned of the significant (\$350K) deferred maintenance needs of the 12 housing units owned by Canal Alliance and its sister organization, Canal Housing Alliance (CHA).

In Summer 2017, the CHA property was formally conveyed to Canal Alliance to ensure appropriate oversight of property management and to build the financial resiliency to undertake deferred maintenance. Canal Alliance has since hired an architect to develop plans and has begun making improvements. While the costs associated with this project are significant, we are holding ourselves to a high standard and seek to serve as a model for affordable housing in Marin County. While considering needed improvements, we are also committed to making upgrades that will reduce long-term costs for tenants.

In Fall 2017, a group of Marin County residents involved in the renewable energy field in various capacities brainstormed how they might help their local community. One of the projects envisioned involved building a PV solar system for the Canal Alliance housing units. While this affordable housing is an incredible resource, the units are heated with electricity, which results in very high monthly electric bills, particularly during the winter months, which is a significant burden to tenants struggling to make ends meet and get out of poverty.

The Marin County residents were able to get solar panels donated for the project, but were a long way from making the project a reality. They reached out to the Oakland-based non-profit GRID Alternatives, which has a mission to make renewable energy technology and job training accessible to underserved communities. GRID agreed to take on the project and work with the community residents to get the project funded and built. Six months later, we have collectively raised nearly 80% of the project funds.

Grant support can make a

List of all community interests that will be affected by the proposed project/program and the public benefit to be derived from it:

The PV system will significantly decrease the electricity bills for the low-income tenants housed in the Canal Alliance units. The 35 kW (DC) system will generate \$327,000 in estimated cost savings over the lifetime of the PV system - an average of \$13,000 per year. More than 90% of these energy cost savings will flow directly to the tenants, with the remaining savings benefiting Canal Alliance itself. The system will also prevent the emission of 670 tons of greenhouse gases over its lifetime, which is the equivalent of planting 15,500 trees.

In addition, all of GRID's installations are used as opportunities for job training and community engagement. This project will allow us to give tenants who are interested in gaining hands-on experience in solar installation the opportunity to do so, and will give community members a chance to actually take part in this amazing project and

learn more about solar in the process.

The Canal Neighborhood itself will benefit through the provision of consistently stable housing opportunities that allow current and future residents to reside in a community of their choosing and the ability to confidently plan for the future. Beyond the tenants themselves, this impoverished and often neglected community will experience the good will that comes from engaging volunteers and others within and beyond the community to make improvements to the neighborhood.

This organization has never received Community Service funds.

No County funding was received for this project or others.

Project/program can be completed if amount received is less than requested amount of Community Service funds.

Applicants are encouraged to leverage funding from other non-County sources, and priority will be given to requests that represent no more than 50% of total project cost. To demonstrate all sources of project funding, including other County sources, please provide a project/program budget below. Please fill in as applicable, and round to the nearest dollar.

Project Funding Sources	Funding Agency	Funding Requested	Received	Notes
County CSF	Marin County	\$10,000	\$0	
Federal Grant				
State Grant				
Individual Contributions				
Other Local Agencies				
In kind services				
Other	Individual	\$131,750	\$111,150	<i>We have \$10,600 pending as pledges.</i>
Total Sources		\$141,750	\$111,150	
Project Expenses		Budgeted	Spent to Date	Notes
Personnel Costs		\$131,750	\$0	<i>Grid Alternatives</i>
Services and Supplies				
Capital				
Other				
Total Expenses		\$131,750	\$0	