



**County of Marin
Community Service Fund Program
Application Form**

Application Date March 28, 2019

Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Organization Information

Full Legal Name: Matrix Parent Network and Resource Center

Organization URL: Matrix, Parent Network and Resource Center

Mission/purpose of your organization:

Matrix’s mission is to empower the families of children with special needs to successfully understand and access the systems that serve them. Strong family support and advocacy is critical to the success of children with special needs. We provide a variety of services to assist parents in becoming informed and effective advocates for their child. We help parents become active participants in their child’s Individualized Education Program at school and assist in connecting to financial, medical and community resources. Founded in Marin in 1983 by three mothers who were frustrated in their attempts to help their children with special needs receive the services they required, Matrix is now a not-for-profit agency serving Marin, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. The main Matrix office is located in Novato. Matrix is recognized as a Parent Training Center by the U.S. Department of Education and as a Family Empowerment Center and Family Resource Center by the State of California.

Grant Request Information

Program/Project Name: Transitioning to Kindergarten for Children with Special Needs

Summary of how County funds would be used for project:

County funds would help pay for additional staff time needed to develop a workshop presentation and supporting training materials, and for translation of materials for our client families that communicate primarily in Spanish.

Amount Requested Dollar: County funds would help pay for additional staff time needed to develop a worksh

Total Project Cost: \$8,000.00

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.

The service model envisioned by federal and state Special Education law relies on informed, involved parents working with educators and therapists to develop appropriate Individual Education Programs (IEPs). Matrix holds numerous workshops throughout the year to help families of children with disabilities become confident and effective advocates for their children and to understand and collaborate fully in the IEP process.

Entering kindergarten is a significant event in every child’s life and raises concern in parents about a child’s safety, social adjustment, and well-being. It is a particularly stressful time for parents of children with disabilities. These concerns are heightened in parents of children with disabilities, who are also concerned with the type of classroom the child might attend, whether adequate special services will be provided, and what special accommodations and learning supports are available.

Conducting workshops is part of our ongoing program, but developing new workshop presentations and supporting materials is often beyond the scope of our existing funding.

Matrix requests a one-time grant of \$3,760 to produce a new workshop presentation on the subject of transition to kindergarten for parents and caregivers of children with disabilities. Funding would support the development of a presentation, interactive workshop activities, and a supporting workbook. They would also support translation of all materials into Spanish. The workshop would be presented to appropriate Marin County families during the latter part of the 2019-2020 school year, for parents whose children will be transitioning to kindergarten in the fall. After presenting the workshop, Matrix staff will use feedback from the parents to evaluate and refine the workshop and materials. Thereafter the Transition to Kindergarten workshop will become a regular annual offering to our clients.

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

Matrix empowers families of children with special needs to successfully understand and access the systems that serve them through workshops, Helpline, 1:1 phone support, publications, website, social media and online support

groups. Our services are provided free of charge, and most are provided in Spanish as well as English. We base our work on the conviction that parents are a child's best advocate, and that the more capable and involved the parent, the more likely the child will succeed and thrive.

More than 3400 students in Marin County have been identified as needing special education services to address disabilities or special needs. We provide support to nearly 300 of their families in Marin County each year. Ninety-eight (98) Marin families attended a workshop or training session provided by Matrix Parent Network in 2018. There are about 250 children of ages 4 and 5 in Marin that have already been identified as having special needs. There may be additional children that have special needs but who have yet to be identified.

The primary benefit of this program will be to enable Matrix to train more families, ensuring that they become effective advocates for their child. Focusing on parents of children entering kindergarten will allow us to reach families early in their child's school career. Once parents have learned how to be effective in their role as IEP team members, they will be able to contribute to their child's school success for the entire time they are in the public school system.

The expected result will be more informed, more confident, and more empowered parents, able to effectively advocate for their children with special needs. Parents will be better able to communicate with and collaborate effectively with teachers, special education directors, school psychologists, counselors, and therapists. This in turn should result in more children with special needs succeeding in school and better relationships between parents and schools.

The total amount received for the past three fiscal years:

Year	Amount	Project
2017 - 2018	\$2,000.00	Parent to Parent Volunteer Mentoring
2016 - 2017	\$2,000.00	Parent to Parent Volunteer Mentoring
2015 - 2016	\$0.00	

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	3760	\$3,760		
Federal Grant	3760		\$3,760	<i>Anticipated FY 2019-20 funding available 7/1/2019</i>
State Grant				
Individual Contributions	480			
Other Local Agencies				
In kind services				
Other				
Total Sources		\$3,760	\$3,760	
Project Expenses		Budgeted	Spent to Date	Notes
Personnel Costs		\$5,600	\$0	
Services and Supplies		\$2,400	\$0	
Capital		\$0	\$0	
Other		\$0	\$0	
Total Expenses		\$8,000	\$0	