



County of Marin Community Service Fund Program Application Form

Application Date September 22, 2020

Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Organization Information

Full Legal Name: ForWords

Organization URL:

Mission/purpose of your organization:

ForWords Literacy Lab's mission is to provide low-income, under-served students in Marin who are first generation English Language Learners, with programs to specifically develop core literacy skills including cognitive, linguistic, academic, and technological skills. Since 2007 we have enabled these students to gain fluency and proficiency in written English, speak in public, think critically, and evaluate information objectively. We work to ensure our students become, educated participants in our democracy - ready to continue their education beyond high school and/or secure meaningful employment. Our 4 cornerstone programs are located at San Rafael High School, Davidson Middle School, Terra Linda High School and at our Learning Lab throughout the year, the latter within walking distance for the majority of the students we serve.

Grant Request Information

Program/Project Name: COVID 19 Virtual Education

Summary of how County funds would be used for project:

Funds would be used for direct & intense services for the 2020-2021 school year to provide the most vulnerable students Marin the chance to, 1) re-connect with their education and 2) maintain/improve their core literacy skills.

Amount Requested Dollar: Funds would be used for direct & intense services for the 2020-2021 school year

Total Project Cost: \$72,800.00

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.

County funds would go directly and entirely into services, virtual and hybrid as appropriate to: 1) help our students finish work that was started in the classrooms and our Learning Lab when the pandemic closed schools, 2) maintain and increase reading, writing, research, critical thinking and presenting skills and 3) retain their engagement in their education. Our students and their families have been hit particularly hard by COVID; many live in crowded and small apartments, have had to work so their families would have food and so the pressure on them is significant and dramatically underscores the importance of the ForWords' programs to them. Our staff has been working non-stop since the first day schools closed and has developed an effective "virtual program" for students at Davidson and San Rafael and Terra Linda high schools and our Saturday program. Of note our first Saturday virtual class had 22 students, an increase over previous years and an indication of both our students' determination and the value of the support we provide them. ForWords has increased staff costs as we do on-going outreach, 1:1 work with our students, increased advise/consult with teachers. We help our students identify the daily anxieties and concerns that they have as first generation students, and now as they cope with COVID, turn those challenges into resilience, perseverance, a purposeful/focused goal to continue their education, with specific academic and literacy skill development. During COVID our work is more crucial than ever. For these students who face the biggest challenges in our County, it is imperative we continue to provide them the rich and focused education they deserve.

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

This project will provide increased support for the schools and teachers we serve, as well as the community where our students live. We do not charge our students for any of our programs. Our students are often newly arrived in Marin and have lives compromised by poverty, family separation, gang violence, discriminatory attitudes and attend local schools that are overwhelmed and under-resourced. We have created a familial bond with our students and families, a wonderful way to serve and build community. We are reaching out to all of our students and their families and will continue to do so via text, email and social media platforms. We have provided increased support to local educational staffs as they too adjust to the new reality of virtual education. Even before the 2020-2021 school year

began, requests for support have increased significantly. Our Summer Bridge program which prepares students for high schools and gives them the opportunity to earn their first 5 high school credits had our largest group of "rising" 9th graders. ForWords is making Marin's future stronger by assisting these hard-working young people, empowering them to take their place in our County as full-fledged members of our democracy.

This organization has never received Community Service funds.

List of County funding received for this project or others.

2019-2020: \$1500.00 from the Community Service Fund Program.

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		\$10,000	\$0	
Federal Grant		\$0	\$0	
State Grant		\$0	\$0	
Individual Contributions		\$27,800	\$27,800	<i>Individual donors to ForWords</i>
Other Local Agencies		\$0	\$0	
In kind services		\$10,000	\$10,000	<i>Legal, design at no cost</i>
Other	Foundations	\$25,000	\$25,000	
Total Sources		\$72,800	\$62,800	
Project Expenses		Budgeted	Spent to Date	Notes
Personnel Costs		\$62,800	\$7,500	
Services and Supplies		\$8,000	\$0	
Capital				
Other				
Total Expenses		\$70,800	\$7,500	