



# County of Marin Community Service Fund Program Application Form

**Application Date** March 29, 2021

**Fiscal Year** July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

## Organization Information

**Full Legal Name:** Marin Senior Coordinating Council DBA Vivalon

**Organization URL:** <https://vivalon.org>

## Mission

**Mission/purpose of your organization:**

Whistlestop—now known as Vivalon—was formed in 1954 to meet the growing needs of Marin’s older adults and people living with disabilities. Vivalon’s main objectives are to provide transportation, nourishment, education, and opportunities for social connection for a population that often suffers from isolation, food insecurity and financial constraints. Today, Vivalon is the largest nonprofit serving older adults in Marin County, and our services provide a critical lifeline to many thousands of isolated, underserved, low-income individuals who would otherwise have few options for safety net support. Last year, Vivalon provided 210,000 meals through our nutrition programs, more than 240,000 rides via specialized transportation programs, discounted lunches from Vivalon Jackson Café, and a range of classes and events to increase opportunities for social interaction and lifelong learning at the Vivalon Healthy Aging Center.

**Description and quantifying impact of COVID-19 pandemic on your organization or the residents that it serves.**

COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on the lives and wellbeing of Vivalon clients. When the shelter-in-place order began in March 2020, the Vivalon Healthy Aging Center had to close its doors. Many of our clients, who visited the Center every day for daily classes, volunteer opportunities, and weekday lunches at Vivalon Jackson Café, no longer had access to these vital resources for social connection. Homebound clients became even more isolated, and many clients worried about how they could safely access food and other essentials while sheltering in place. We responded by adapting many of our services. CarePool by Vivalon, our free, volunteer ride service, began to deliver groceries and medical essentials. Vivalon Jackson Café began offering takeout lunches. We also created a curbside pickup and drive-through system for our Brown Bag Pantry. As Covid continues to impact our community, Vivalon will continue supporting the health and wellbeing of our neighbors.

## Grant Request Information

**Program/Project Name:** iPads for Vivalon Talking Tech

**Summary description of your project:**

This grant will fund the purchase of iPads and accessories for Vivalon Talking Tech, a new program to match volunteers with socially isolated older adults to provide technology training so they can connect with family, friends, and health resources.

**Amount Requested Dollar:** \$9,525.60

**Total Project Cost:** \$9,525.60

**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 Vivalon Talking Tech program is designed to address the pervasive lack of technology knowledge among low-income older adults in Marin County, many of whom are socially isolated due to the COVID-19 pandemic shelter-in-place order, disabilities, chronic health conditions and/or limited mobility. For this new pilot program, Vivalon recruits, trains, and matches local volunteers with older adults to provide one-on-one, in-person training and support on the use of technology devices, specifically the Apple iPad. Funding from this grant will enable purchase of 20 new iPads, iPad cases, screen protectors and AppleCare protection programs for use by program participants and volunteers. Each trained volunteer will support two older adults on how to access the internet and use their iPad not only to connect with family and friends, but also to communicate with their health care providers using telehealth. Funding for the purchase of these iPads is particularly urgent at this time when so many isolated older adults are struggling to make appointments for the COVID vaccine. The three-month pilot planning phase for Vivalon Talking Tech will

encompass six activities, including: (1) Assess client needs; (2) Define program components; (3) Design program; (4) Recruit volunteers; (5) Develop training materials; (6) Determine how to measure effectiveness of program. In month four, the Vivalon Talking Tech pilot will launch with 10 older adults and five volunteers (two clients per volunteer) to be administered by a 0.5 FTE/contractor for a period of six months. The program administrator will conduct weekly evaluations with volunteers and monthly well-being evaluations of clients for the duration of the six-month pilot.

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

Older adults who live alone often have little or no understanding of how to use technology, a skill that is particularly important for making online appointments for the COVID vaccine. The ability to connect to the internet using a computer device such as an iPad also gives isolated older adults a way to communicate with family and friends, stay informed with important news, and use telehealth to connect with their doctors to discuss ongoing and urgent health concerns. The digital divide between generations has long been an issue in our society, but it can have a life-threatening impact for older adults and individuals living with chronic illnesses who are homebound with few options to book an appointment for the COVID vaccine. By providing the one-on-one, personal training older adults need to feel comfortable accessing the internet and using the Pad, Vivalon Talking Tech has the potential to bridge the digital divide so pervasive among Marin County’s most vulnerable residents. This new pilot program also promises to create trusted relationships between generations: younger volunteers will be screened for their ability to have the focus and compassion needed to work patiently with older adults as they gain confidence in using their iPads to reconnect with the world around them, and to reach out for the information and support they need from the comfort of their own homes.

**The total amount received for the past three fiscal years:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Project</b>
2019 - 2020	\$9,196.00	\$4196 food packaging system, \$5K PPE supplies during Covid
2018 - 2019	\$6,000.00	Nutrition programs: Brown Bag Pantry, Nourish
2017 - 2018	\$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.

<b>Project Funding Sources</b>	<b>Funding Agency</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Notes</b>
County CSF				
Federal Grant				
State Grant				
Individual Contributions				
Other Local Agencies				
In kind services				
Other				
<b>Total Sources</b>				
<b>Project Expenses</b>		<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Spent to Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Personnel Costs				
Services and Supplies				
Capital		\$9,526	\$0	\$7960 iPads, \$499.80 cases, \$339.80 screen protect
Other				
<b>Total Expenses</b>		\$9,526	\$0	