

County of Marin Community Service Fund Program Application Form

Fields labeled as "(public)" will be viewable to the public.

Request is for Fiscal Year: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Application Date (public) Thursday, March 31, 2022

Project Number 50

Organization Information

Full Legal Name (public) Multicultural Center of Marin (Wise Choices for Girls)

Organization URL (public) Wisechoicesforgirls.org

Mission

What is the mission/purpose of your organization? (Limited to 1000 characters) (public)

Wisdom. Integrity. Service. Education.

Our mission is to inspire girls to bring out their best; respect for self, and respect for others. We emphasize the importance of education, social and cultural competency, and to appreciate the value of service. We strive to overcome the social and economic situations that particularly impact low-income communities of Marin. We expose our girls to the broader issues that affect them and their peers, beginning with Marin City, Marin County, the state, the country, and eventually the international community. This provides a context for them to make positive choices that affect themselves and others. These goals are accomplished with the collaboration of parents, teachers, counselors, school staff, tutors, spiritual advisers, mentors, recreational staff and existing programs to include all stakeholders involved, within our community network.

Grant Request Information

Program/Project Name (public) Wise Choices for Girls - Support in Response to the Pandemic

Provide a very brief summary description of your project. (Limited to 250 characters) (public) Wise Choices for Girls will expand the professional support needed to address behavioral health concerns that impact the participants' success in other areas. Depression, anxiety, and substance use has greatly increased due to the pandemic.

Amount Requested Dollar (public) 10000

Total Project Cost (public) 20000

Being as specific as possible, describe the proposed project/program and its goal(s). Include implementation plans as related to the COVID 19 pandemic and identify what elements of the project would be paid for using County funds. (Limited to 2000 characters) (public)

Wise Choices for Girls (WC4G) creates a cohort of approximately 15 female middle and high school students that meet 2-3 times each week throughout the school year for tutoring and other support. The cohort provides a safe space for the girls to get support from each other, Alexis Wise, and other adults to help them navigate the challenges they face while developing their values, goals and sense of self. In 2017-19, WC4G participated in a Marin County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services' project that showed the important role grassroots organizations play in ensuring access to culturally responsive and welcoming behavioral health services. Since then, WC4G has intermittently had the funds to bring a therapist with a similar background to the girls into the group, enabling the group to move to new levels of conversation, support, and insight. In addition, participants and their families have had limited access to sessions with the therapist. Generally stigma is a barrier to the participants getting this type of service, but once they meet the therapist in the group setting, they are much more willing to attend individual sessions. Cost and logistics of access are also barriers that are reduced through this project.

This year the need for these services has greatly increased due to the pandemic. The need to respond to participants' social and emotional health has made it difficult to spend the time needed on education, career, and service goals. Having a therapist to address the mental health and substance use issues will greatly benefit the girls' and the program's ability to achieve success.

County funds would be used specifically for the therapist's time for approximately 30 group and individual/family session (\$7300), as well as other costs associated with providing the group sessions, including food (\$700) and staff time to coordinate the sessions (\$2000).

List all community interests that will be affected by the proposed project/program and the public benefit to be derived from it. (Limited to 2000 characters) (public)

Currently participants are low-income, mostly students of color, living in Marin City and facing a variety of challenges including trauma, poverty, depression, anxiety and substance use. WC4G has assisted over 55 girls and their families. Eighty percent have gone into four-year universities, 10% into active military, and 10% into full time employment. Twenty-two participants in 2018 and 2019 reported that the program helped them to:

- Motivate myself to do my best Quite a bit 18% Definitely 82%
- Have hope for the future Quite a bit 9% Definitely 91%
- Focus on plans & goals for my future Quite a bit 14% Definitely 86%

This is a crucial time as students transition out of "stay at home" and hopefully the worst stage of the pandemic. Students have lost family members, been cut off from previous support, and are feeling isolated and fearful. Schools are experiencing the impacts, as behavior and attendance issues are widespread. The Sausalito Marin City middle school has invited WC4G to come to the school to recruit new participants, recognizing the deep need the students have and the strong reputation WC4G has built.

In addition to individual and family impacts, working with grassroots efforts such as WC4G is key to Marin County Department of HHS' Equity Plan 2018. On page 15, the Plan recognizes the role of supporting "initiatives led by community members" and other ways to "engage community to effect meaningful change." WC4G was one of a number of groups that participated in BHRS' Growing Roots project, bringing community wisdom, expertise and hard work to the table to reduce disparities. Continuing these relationships will support a collaborative approach to achieving the shared goal of equity.

Has your organization received Community Service funds before? (public)

Yes

If Yes, please list the total amount received for the past three fiscal years: (public)

	Amount (\$)	Project
FY 2020-2021	3000	WC4G
FY 2019-2020	2000	WC4G college tour
FY 2018-2019		

Is your organization receiving any other County funding for this project or others? (public)

Yes

If Yes, please list type of other County funding and amounts: (public)

Marin County Parks Breathe/Respira Grant for \$7700 for Sept 2021-Sept 2022 for WC4G, but not for this specific project.

NOTE: Below we marked that we can complete the project if we receive less than requested amount, but the deadline is not applicable since 6.30.21 already passed.

Can you successfully complete your project by June 30, 2021 if you receive less than your requested amount of Community Service funds? (public)

Yes

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. (public)

	Funding Agency	Funding Requested (\$)	Funding Received (\$)	Notes
County CSF		10000	0	
Federal Grant		0	0	
State Grant		0	0	
Individual Contributions		0	5000	
Other Local Agencies	Marin Charitable	0	5000	
In kind services		0	0	
Other		0	0	

Total Funding Requested \$10000

Total Funding Received \$10000

Please fill in as applicable, and round to the nearest dollar.

	Budgeted (\$)	Spent to Date(\$)	Notes
Personnel Costs	4000		Director, Admin
Services and Supplies	16000		\$1400 group mtg supplies, \$14,600 for approximately 60 therapist sessions (group or individual/family)
Capital			
Other			

Total Budgeted Expenses (public) \$20000

Total Spent to Date (public) \$0

This cycle is funded by proceeds from the American Rescue Plan Act and the following questions are necessary to satisfy federal reporting criteria. All applicants are required to respond to these questions for completion of this application, but the responses will not be used in evaluating whether your project will receive Community Service Fund program funds from the County of Marin.

Has your organization been significantly impacted economically by COVID (such as financial loss due to periods of closure, implementing additional COVID safety precautions, lost fundraising opportunities, or inability to meet payroll, rent or utilities?) (public)

If Yes, please provide a specific description of the impacts and quantifying impact where possible. (public) Initially WC4G had to restructure its services, including providing emergency services for participating families and staffing the learning hub in Marin City. Outreach for new participants was difficult in 2020. But this year there is an influx of middle school students. Current participants need a higher level of support, due to the social-emotional and academic impacts of the pandemic.

Are you serving disadvantaged, minority or low-income residents who have been negatively impacted by COVID? (public)

If Yes, please provide a specific description of how the people you serve have been impacted. (public) WC4G participants are almost all very low income, with less access to health care, mental health care, options to work at home, parks to relax and socialize safely in, and other strategies. They have felt the full impact of the virus as well as the stressors that have come alongside it. The students in particular had limited access to online school and other supports, making transitioning back to school very

challenging.

Does your organization have future plans for improvements needed to mitigate the impacts of COVID or to contain its spread? (public)

Yes

If Yes, please provide a description of your improvement plans with quantifying statements when possible. (public)

WC4G is assisting participants and their families to improve their physical and emotional well being that have been greatly impacted by the pandemic. This is the foundation to then addressing the educational and economic tolls the pandemic has taken.