

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) Sunday, January 2, 2022

Project Number 1

Organization Information

Full Legal Name (public) Next Generation Scholars

Organization URL (public) www.nextgenerationscholars.org

Mission

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

Next Generation Scholars (NGS) equips and empowers Marin County first-generation middle and high school students to succeed in college and beyond through individualized academic and social support for them and their families. Leadership training augments their academics, ensuring they are emboldened to address the inequities in the world for both themselves, and their communities. In 2021, NGS reached a milestone of 200 adult alumni, who are employed in various private and public sectors, volunteering in their communities, while also serving as important role models to Marin's young low income students of color, that a college degree is well within their reach.

In 2022, our focus is to expand the numbers we serve, resume our critical college visit and field trip programs (safety permitting), and keep our scholars and families in forward motion. We appreciate your time with, and consideration of, this proposal.

Grant Request Information

Program/Project Name (public) Next Generation Scholars (NGS) On The Move

Provide a very brief summary description of your project. (Limited to 250 characters) (public) To ensure the safe transportation of our 150 low-income students to/from: classes; cultural and educational field trips; student community volunteer projects, social service appointments (with parents), and college visits through Spring of 2022.

Amount Requested Dollar (public) 10000

Total Project Cost (public) 35000

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)

NGS On The Move ensures that Marin's low-income first generation students and their families have access to our programs via safe transportation. Having safely returned to in-person learning, with our top priority being prevention and wellness, our students are once again requiring travel to our programs daily, from schools across Marin County. Additionally, cultural and educational field trips, vital college visits, NGS student community volunteer projects and family activities present transportation needs that our clients cannot afford. With strict adherence to Marin H&HS and CDC's direction on COVID & related virus protocols as of Spring, 2022, for all NGS programs and modes of transportation, we specifically seek support for the following - which will collectively help to transport our 150 students and up to 650 family members:

- 1) Gas Card Purchases for NGS volunteer drivers. (\$1,500)
- 2) Van Rental costs for field trips, college visits and student community volunteer projects. (\$5,000)
- 3) Ride Share Voucher (Lyft/Uber) Purchases for outings, and to transport our families in order to access social services from partnering Marin organizations. (\$1,500)
- 4) Gas, Admission Fees, Parking Fees and Bridge Toll costs for trips including field trips and college visits. (\$5,000)

County funds would be used for these 4 purposes.

Additional costs, which we have identified funding for, include personnel, insurance and the ongoing purchases of safety protocol supplies including masks, disinfectants, thermometers, home rapid tests and the costs of PCR testing for staff and students as needed.

In the event we experience another pandemic downturn, and the proposed activities within this request are no longer advised by Marin H&HR and/or CDC, we will do as we've become proficient and effective at doing to date, and pivot back to online learning, augmenting our academic programs with creative ways to challenge and engage our students in cultural and enrichment experiences.

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)

This project will affect 150 of Marin's motivated under-resourced first-generation students, working hard to become the first in their families to earn a college degree. Since 2003, NGS has been disrupting the cycle of poverty these youth were born into, helping them to define their own futures through the power of higher education.

Since 2003, our longitudinal & wrap-around approach, serving students and their families from 6th grade to beyond their college graduation day, continues to result in 95% of our students graduating from Universities within 5 years (the national average is 60%), and 100% of our high school seniors receiving college acceptances, along with the required financial aid packages needed to attend.

Our many collaborations help to shape this success, including school partners, social service organizations, community volunteers, donors, a dedicated staff, & our parents - who dare to allow their children to follow their dream of becoming the first in their family to earn a college degree.

Beyond Marin's students/families, community interests to benefit from NGS's reliable transportation include: teachers and school administrators in our 16 partner schools; the community at large via NGS students' long-term Community Uplift Projects (ie, mental health, gardening, food bank, etc); staff of county of county and social service orgs, due to the preventative results our wellness-focused services produce, and finally, Marin's young first-gen, for whom NGS students & alumni model that a college degree is well within their reach.

Educational partners include: MCOE; Canal Comm. Alliance; Bridge the Gap; Marin Promise; SRCS and 10K Degrees. Social Service partners include: Center4Domestic Peace, Marin H&HS; Legal Aid Marin; Extra Food; Marin/SF Food Bank; Bloom; Huckleberry; Planned Parenthood & Marin Housing Authority.

Lastly, safe & reliable transportation mitigates public safety issues while keeping NGS students safe and in forward motion.

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	\$6,000	Food for Summer Academy
FY 2019-2020		
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)

2 Most Recent Grants:

Nonprofit Community Partners Program:

- \$20K for Summer Academy Food Program, 2021

(completed)

(Not for this project)

Community Service Fund Program-

-\$6,000 for Summer Academy Food Program, 2021

(completed)

(Not for this project)

Both of these grants resulted in 100% of NGS students overcoming learning loss & mental health and wellness challenges, and grade level ready for the 2021 school year - The nutritious food provided to them was pivotal to their success.

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	Brd. of Supervisors	\$10,000		pending
Federal Grant	na	na	na	
State Grant	na	na	na	
Individual Contributions	Individuals	10,000	8,000	fundraising ongoing
Other Local Agencies	na	na	na	
In kind services	Volunteer Drivers	na	na	parents
Other	Foundations	\$15,000	\$15,000	

Total Funding Requested \$35000

Total Funding Received \$23000

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

	Budgeted (\$)	Spent to Date(\$)	Notes
Personnel Costs	\$18,000	0	
Services and Supplies	\$10,000	0	1) Gas Purchases; 2) RideShare Vouchers; 3) Field Trip Costs (admission, parking, toll, etc) Covid Safety Supplies & Tests
Capital	na	0	
Other	\$7,000	0	Vehicle Rentals, Insurance

Total Budgeted Expenses (public) \$35000

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)

Yes

If Yes, please provide a specific description of the impacts and quantifying impact where possible. (public)

In addition to the \$35,000 of added COVID-related expenses incurred in FY 2020-21 for staffing, safety protocol and tech needs, our new costs in FY 21-22 include: Increased staffing and supply needs both to ensure ongoing safety protocols, and to meet the growing demand on our social service programs as it relates to food insecurity, mental health and wellness issues in our students and families. The soaring costs involved in trying to give our students a renewed sense of normalcy in a COVID/Delta/Omicron climate continue to rise in every area, including staffing, food, tech and transportation costs. We anticipate approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 in added expenses again for FY 21-22 as a direct result of the impact of pandemic.

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

Yes

If Yes, please provide a specific description of how the people you serve have been impacted. (public)

97% of our students and families qualify as low-income based on Marin's CDBG guidelines, and are first-generation people of color residing in Marin, primarily in the Canal area of San Rafael. At the onset of the pandemic in 2020, 80% of these families, working primarily multiple entry-level jobs, were unemployed and have lost any financial traction they might have begun to gain. With their housing, mental health and food security put in danger, we served as their safety net then, and continue to do so today, through our social services programs and ongoing fundraising efforts. The uncertainty of these times, coupled with precarious financial situations, presents the greatest mental health struggles we've seen to date in both our students, and their parents.

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)

100% of NGS staff and volunteers have received both vaccinations and the booster. Entry into the Scholar House requires proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test result. Masks are required indoors, with students and parents abiding by protocol at all times, and visitors vetted before entry. Our social services director has been instrumental in getting our families vaccinated, working to dismiss their fears through empowering them with

knowledge and science. 100% of our age-eligible students are fully vaccinated.

Beyond the physical precautions we continue to mandate, we are focusing our efforts on the mental health needs of our students and families. Added wellness support groups, a new weekly mental health & wellness program provided by an outside expert, training for all staff in detecting warning signs in students and added drop-in hours for students to connect with staff are underway for the winter and spring of 2022. We will continue to pivot, adapt and expand as needed, to meet the needs of our under-resourced families, while ensuring their children's success in getting into, and through college. We are also fostering increased parent involvement, which has taken form of a new Parent Committee having formed. As they lead, self-govern and fundraise on behalf of our programs, they are coming together to strengthen the sense of community so critical to them, our students and our staff.

Finally, the project for which we request funding, NGS On The Move, is a way to model resilience for our students - helping them to get back out in the world, to visit the colleges they may one day attend, to see the cultural, artistic and educational venues that await them on the other side of the Golden Gate Bridge, to get to their therapy appointments on time and to travel across Marin to get to their volunteer projects on time. On behalf of our students, families and staff, we thank the Marin Board of Supervisors for your time and consideration with this request, and hope you will partner with us.