

# 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)** Tuesday, January 25, 2022

**Project Number** 5

## Organization Information

**Full Legal Name (public)** Next Generation Scholars (NGS)

**Organization URL (public)** Next Generation Scholars

## 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, showing them that a college degree is well within their reach.

With Omicron presenting yet another financial setback for our families, we seek funds to ensure food security for our 200 students in grades 6th through their college senior year, along with their over 800 family members. We thank the Board of Supervisors for your time with, and consideration of, this proposal.

## Grant Request Information

**Program/Project Name (public)** NGS Family Food Program, Spring 2022

**Provide a very brief summary description of your project. (Limited to 250 characters) (public)** To mitigate the new risks of food insecurity for NGS students and their families through Spring of 2022, by bolstering our efforts via our Family Food Bank, daily Student Meals, & Grocery Gift Cards, to fuel and reassure our students and families.

**Amount Requested Dollar (public)** 10000

**Total Project Cost (public)** 51960

**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's Family Food Program's goal is to ensure food security for our 200 students and their families, using a 3-fold approach: 1) Family Food Bank; 2) Daily Student Meals, and a recently accelerated Grocery Gift Card program (for NGS families and college students). County funds will be used to offset the rising costs of these efforts, providing the daily nutrition proven to be so vital to our clients' physical, academic and emotional well-being, especially as they grapple with the setbacks of Omicron.

Despite our efforts in utilizing the Marin/San Francisco Food Bank's low-cost food pricing & deliveries of free food via ExtraFood.org, more support is needed to maintain our weekly Family Food Bank. Likewise, expenses for supplies and COVID-safe prep and service of our on-site afternoon Daily Student Meals, often their primary meal of the day, are outpacing our resources. Finally, demand for our monthly Grocery Gift Card program, augmenting family budgets & providing a lifeline of financial relief for Marin's NGS college students (50) away at colleges across the country, has increased by 50%.

Specifically, our updated projected food costs for March through June of 2022 is \$46,640 (\$11,600 a month, compared to our budgeted \$8000/month - a \$14,400 disparity for this funding period), as follows:

Purchase of food staples for weekly NGS Food Bank, \$500/week x 16 weeks = \$8,000

Student Meal Program at NGS Scholar House, 4 day/week, \$6.00/student x 90 students x 16 weeks = \$8,640

Grocery Gift Cards for NGS Families & College Students \$100 grocery gift cards distributed monthly to 75 households in need, \$7,5000 x 4 months (March June 2022) = \$30,000.

Safety is our top priority & NGS adheres to Covid-safety protocols in every aspect of our programs, as further explained within this proposal.

County funds will help NGS to offset rising food costs, keeping our families intact through these times.

**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 directly affect 200 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 Marin youth were born into, helping them to define their own futures through the power of higher education.

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 collaborators are positively affected by our work, 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 who benefit from the results of our Food Program 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, community garden, food bank, etc); staff of county and social service orgs, due to the preventative results our wellness-focused services produce, and finally, Marin's youngest first-gen, for whom NGS students & alumni model that a college degree is indeed 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.

As evidenced by our many alumni success stories, NGS showcases Marin's youth in a positive light, nationwide.

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

**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)**

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

2 Most Recent Grants:  
 Nonprofit Community Partners Program:  
 - \$20K for Summer Academy 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)**

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	Board of Supervisors	10000	na	Pending
Federal Grant	na	na	na	
State Grant	na	na	na	
Individual Contributions	Individuals	21460	12000	Fundraising is ongoing, with two fundraising events scheduled for May, 2022
Other Local Agencies	na	na	na	
In kind services	Extra Food.org	na	na	This partnership provides free excess available food made possible by the community on an ongoing basis, which is used to augment our Food Bank and Meal Program as appropriate.
Other	Foundations	15000	10000	\$5K pending

**Total Funding Requested** \$46460

**Total Funding Received** \$22000

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

	Budgeted (\$)	Spent to Date(\$)	Notes
Personnel Costs	\$5500	na	Reflects 20% of our Social Services Director's time for this program. While this allocation of paid time has not yet been spent, NGS has this expense covered through its staffing budget.
Services and Supplies	46460	na	food purchases and grocery gift card purchases

	Budgeted (\$)	Spent to Date(\$)	Notes
Capital	na	na	na
Other	na	na	na

**Total Budgeted Expenses (public)** \$51960

**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.

A recent article published in the Marin Ij on Jan. 12, 2022, addressed the the soaring inflation in Marin:

"Inflation has been elevated since early 2021, and until we are more clear of variants globally, with a reduced threat of lockdowns and supply-chain disruptions, prices are likely to remain elevated," said Rob Eyler, chief economist of the Marin Economic Forum. "Housing, gas and car prices the main culprits for now, other goods and services to come if higher prices linger."

"The cost of gasoline, natural gas utility service, electricity service, vehicles, food in general – primarily cereal, bakery products, meat, poultry, fish and eggs – drove the jump in consumer prices in the Bay Area, according to the bureau."

For NGS families, they are having to make difficult choices regarding their limited resources. Funds for this request will ensure we are able to offset their food expenses, freeing up their limited budgets for other expenses critical to their livelihood.

**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)**

To mitigate the impact of Covid and efforts to contain its spread, at the time of this writing (Jan. 25, 2022), NGS has reverted to a full schedule of virtual instruction for the coming weeks, until the current threat of Omicron transmission is behind us. While Marin's schools remain open and our students are engaging in in-person learning on their respective campuses, this difficult yet clear decision is the safest route for now, given our students arrive to us from a variety of campuses, daily, accelerating the risk of exposure and the threat of transmission exponentially with the highly contagious Omicron virus. We anticipate this adjustment to be temporary, based on ongoing information provided by the CDC and Marin County Health and Human Services, and that it will not impact in-person delivery of the program proposed within this funding request, which is specific to March through June of 2022. While all classes, social services and wellness programs have returned to Zoom, our Food Bank remains accessible as does our recently expanded Grocery Gift Card distribution process.

At the point we resume again to in-person, and as has been the case since we welcomed our students back to the Scholar House in the fall, the following efforts remain routine practices:

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 will continue to mandate, we also focus 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 taken form. 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.

We appreciate the Board of Supervisors' nimbleness in considering funding for a time in the very near future that doesn't look exactly like the immediate present. Such is the nature of these times, and the challenges of requesting funding in an uncertain and ever-changing pandemic landscape. Regardless, our students and families know they can always count on us, and we appreciate this opportunity to request support from our County.