

# 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, March 29, 2022

**Project Number** 42

## Organization Information

**Full Legal Name (public)** School of Environmental Leadership (SEL)

**Organization URL (public)** <https://www.thesel.org/>

## Mission

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

The mission and purpose of the School of Environmental Leadership (SEL) is to transform public education by building leaders for a just and sustainable world, through an innovative model which is sustainability-focused, equity forward, and centered in interdisciplinary rigorous problem-based learning with community collaboration at the heart.

## Grant Request Information

**Program/Project Name (public)** Building Capacity and Accessibility: Equity-centered Sustainability Leadership in Marin County Education and Communities

**Provide a very brief summary description of your project. (Limited to 250 characters) (public)** SEL proposes to design, plan, and implement focused student and teacher equity training with curricular integration and year-long support. Community-based projects and internships have measurable outcomes, prioritizing climate-vulnerable communities.

**Amount Requested Dollar (public)** 10000

**Total Project Cost (public)** 51300

**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)**

Since 2011, MarinSEL students and faculty have partnered with communities on climate change mitigation and adaptation for meaningful impacts with measurable outcomes within Marin County. However, our hard-working teachers and community partners have expressed a need for focused curriculum and training that teaches students how to engage with diverse communities, especially those facing systemic barriers through historical marginalization, in a way that centers their assets,

dignity, voices, and decision making power. This proposed project’s goal is to build out transformative change in Marin County through the following services: intensive professional equity training at the MarinSEL student retreat; 2-day retreat design for integration; curriculum integration; customized professional equity training for MarinSEL and Terra Linda High School faculty, serving approximately 60 instructors; ongoing year-round instructional support for MarinSEL faculty on sustainability instruction with an equity lens; consulting with climate-vulnerable community leaders. Some anticipated outcomes include but are not limited to: increased project partnership, reach and measurable impact in climate-vulnerable communities; synergy between these communities and policy makers; increased capacity building for sustainability leadership of students and teachers; increased capacity of students to engage with communities facing systemic barriers that respects their needs and centers their decision making and lived experiences. Implementation plans would be largely unchanged if COVID-19 protocols were to prohibit in-person gathering, as MarinSEL has successfully pivoted programming and training to a virtual format that satisfies learning objectives and is still meaningful to communities. MarinSEL follows all Marin County COVID-19 guidelines. County funds would cover the professional equity training for students and related design, planning and implementation for retreat and curriculum integration.

**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)**

Collaborating with the most climate-vulnerable communities on mitigation and adaptation strategies improves climate outcomes for all Marin communities. MarinSEL also works deeply across many groups of stakeholders spanning most of the county. Each year, fifteen community-based projects, eight student-created and launched sustainable enterprises, and thirty internships take place. Each of these forty five projects include a project-specific community partner in diverse sustainability fields: Marin Transit Authority, MCE Clean Energy, Indian Valley Organic Farm, Walker Creek Ranch, the Multicultural Center of Marin, San Rafael Airport, the Buck Institute, Marin County Parks, primary schools across multiple school districts, Golden Gate Electric Vehicle Association at Point Reyes, local congresspeople and more.

Belonging and cultural mindfulness are essential for student collaboration on capacity building within climate-vulnerable communities that are often low income communities and/or BIPOC communities due to systemic barriers. This training and curriculum development will allow teachers to model for students, who in turn model for all, how to collaborate on and elevate the important local climate work impacting community interests around: zero waste; affordable clean energy; clean air; access to nature, green transportation and healthy, sustainably-produced food; youth engagement and education; equal protection against climate disasters that impact housing, hunger, health, employment, and more. Students will bring this systemic lens back to their families, communities, higher education, various industries, other geographies, and next generations. MarinSEL students’ ability to inspire and benefit the public will only grow as they support and innovate with communities, particularly frontline and/or local Indigenous communities, and in partnership with non-profit, governmental, education and for-profit sectors, for the just and sustainable world we all know can exist.

**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		
FY 2019-2020		
FY 2018-2019	4000	Environmental Leadership Institute at Venetia Valley

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

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		\$10,000		
Federal Grant				
State Grant				
Individual Contributions		\$33,300		
Other Local Agencies				
In kind services		\$8,000		
Other				

**Total Funding Requested** \$51300

**Total Funding Received** \$0

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

	Budgeted (\$)	Spent to Date(\$)	Notes
Personnel Costs	\$1,300		Teacher Stipends
Services and Supplies	\$50,000		Professional trainers and year-long curricular support services for design, integration and implementation of equity training at intersection of sustainability programming; Training venue and supplies
Capital			

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

**Total Budgeted Expenses (public)** \$51300

**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)**

MarinSEL has been impacted economically by COVID because of the lost fundraising opportunities and implementation of additional COVID-19 safety precautions, which added additional staff time to work through. We lost approximately \$80,000 and were unable to receive both in-kind, individual contributions, and grant opportunities due to the pandemic. Since the onset of the pandemic, MarinSEL has been able to successfully pivot programming and training to a virtual format that satisfies learning objectives. We have also been able to successfully work with community partners to update project scopes where necessary so that outcomes are still meaningful to communities. MarinSEL follows all Marin County COVID-19 guidelines closely.

**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)**

We have continued to partner with community-based organizations that are serving basic needs of these communities, and we continue to prioritize support for community resilience and empowerment for climate protection and action. Communities we served were impacted as frontline workers; those vulnerable to sea level rise; economic impacts due to being essential workers; and other impacts such as, PSPS events and resulting food shortages.

**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)**

MarinSEL follows all COVID-19 precautions to protect students and teachers. We have set up measures to support resiliency and school partners for energy independence and reliability. We have also been able to implement effective, community-based, deep, consistent, accessible, virtual learning to mitigate learning loss and help support community efforts during the pandemic.