



**County of Marin
Community Service Fund Program
Application Form**

Application Date September 30, 2020

Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Organization Information

Full Legal Name: Performing Stars of Marin

Organization URL: performingstars.org

Mission/purpose of your organization:

Mission - Founded in 1990 to give diverse, often marginalized, low-income children in Marin the opportunity to “reach for the stars” by participating in arts, Performing Stars has become one of the state’s leading youth arts programs, with a mission to build pride, character, discipline and self- esteem in the hearts and lives of low-income, primarily minority, children.

We achieve our mission through connecting youth and their families with arts, recreation, and other cultural enrichment programs that develop good work habits and positive social skills, enhance analytical thinking, improve communication skills, and increase professional readiness. Further, by exposing youth to county-wide experience beyond young people’s cultural comfort zone, Performing Stars promotes important personal growth and transformation.

Grant Request Information

Program/Project Name: Revival of the Victory Gardens in Marin City – a Covid-19 Response

Summary of how County funds would be used for project:

Funds will be used for supplies to equip interested Golden Gate Village (GGV) residents to grow fruits and vegetables & beautify their balconies & yards. The project will focus on families and children, teaching young people to grow food!

Amount Requested Dollar: Funds will be used for supplies to equip interested Golden Gate Village (GGV) re

Total Project Cost: \$68,831.00

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.

In the face of Covid-19, Golden Gate Village residents have fewer options for activities & recreation. They are largely isolated & physically distancing, with some children going back to class at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy, but others still distance learning. Many adults are experiencing or facing the prospect of unemployment. Students have less to do, & are spending much more time on screens. At the same time, with only one source for fresh groceries (Target), Marin City has been recognized as a food desert, lacking easy access to fruits & vegetables. While many in Marin City face significant socio-economic hardship, we are also the beneficiaries of a great generosity. As long-time members of the community & frequent organizers of this generosity, at Performing Stars (PS), we have observed that, if not navigated properly, this generosity can lead some people to a sense of dependence or entitlement & ultimately, disempowerment, as people don’t feel self-sufficient.

In response to Covid-19 & all the above, PS launched our Victory Garden project in the spring to give children & families an opportunity to learn to grow fruit & vegetables & to beautify their homes & yards. Participation has exceeded projections with 25 people so far working to green their yards & balconies! PS seeks funding to continue this work. Funding granted will go to supplies, including packages of soil, seeds for fruits, vegetables & flowers, tools, & planters. We are also providing trainings, written instructions & online resources. We will also provide support for front yards to be tilled and aerated in preparation for planting. Where possible, PS emphasizes low-water plants & recycled materials.

Staff costs will be covered with other funding. Partners include the Sausalito Marin City School District, Marin City Library, GGV Resident Council, Marin Housing Authority, & Marin Master Gardeners.

PS has & will continue to generate enthusiasm by promoting people’s efforts on social media.

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

The intended project will:

- Foster community among Golden Gate Village residents sharing in an activity which, even with physical distancing can be shared via social media
- Create a positive, constructive outlet for families and children and, importantly an outside, not screen-based activity during this challenging time of shelter-in-place
- Promote a sense of self-empowerment and self-efficacy at a time when so much feels out of control
- Provide the community with at least some fresh produce, a vital need given the area's limited availability and designation as a food desert
- Over the longer term, contribute to healthier nutritional choices (important as in a 2016 report 75% of the Marin City population qualified as obese)
- Beautify the community
- Create a stronger connection for residents to nature and to where their food comes from

Our vision is that by creating sustainable gardens families will feel personally invested where they live, gaining a sense of ownership and community spirit, and will feel just a bit more optimistic in this otherwise exceedingly challenging time.

The total amount received for the past three fiscal years:

| Year | Amount | Project |
|-------------|---------------|--|
| 2019 - 2020 | \$10,000.00 | For PS' 30th Anniversary Video |
| 2018 - 2019 | \$2,000.00 | Video camera to document Marin City activities |
| 2017 - 2018 | \$1,000.00 | Enlighten - Girls Empowerment Programs |

List of County funding received for this project or others.

- Marin County Health & Human Services (HHS) - Prevention & Early Intervention/School Age Services - \$40,000
- Marin County Health & Human Services (HHS) - Covid-19 Testing Promotion - \$10,000
- Marin County CDBG - \$15,000
- Marin County Non-Profit Partnership Fund - \$10,000
- Marin County Probation Department - Walking School Bus - \$10,000

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.

| Project Funding Sources | Funding Agency | Funding Requested | Received | Notes |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---|
| County CSF | | \$5,000 | | <i>for gardening supplies</i> |
| Federal Grant | CDBG | | \$15,000 | |
| State Grant | | | | |
| Individual Contributions | | \$7,000 | \$28,000 | |
| Other Local Agencies | | \$0 | | |
| In kind services | | \$3,500 | \$2,500 | <i>materials and volunteer time</i> |
| Other | | \$2,000 | \$6,000 | <i>grants</i> |
| Total Sources | | \$17,500 | \$51,500 | |
| | | | | |
| Project Expenses | | Budgeted | Spent to Date | Notes |
| Personnel Costs | | \$32,813 | \$10,938 | <i>Garden & Admin Coords - 12 months, 25 & 10 hr/wk</i> |
| Services and Supplies | | \$18,810 | \$6,270 | <i>seeds, soil, equipment, educational materials, et</i> |
| Capital | | | | |
| Other | | | | |
| Total Expenses | | \$51,623 | \$17,208 | |