



County of Marin Community Service Fund Program Application Form

Application Date September 29, 2020

Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Organization Information

Full Legal Name: WISE Choices for Girls

Organization URL: Wisechoicesforgirls.org

Mission/purpose of your organization:

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: Strengthening WISE Choices for Girls

Summary of how County funds would be used for project:

County funding will strengthen WISE Choices for Girls' peer and professional support component needed to address behavioral health concerns, including trauma, substance use, and self-esteem, that affect participants' ability to reach their goals.

Amount Requested Dollar: County funding will strengthen WISE Choices for Girls' peer and professional sup

Total Project Cost: \$20,000.00

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.

WISE Choices for Girls (WC4G) creates a cohort of 10-15 female 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.

WC4G participated in Marin County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services' Growing Roots innovation project. This was a time-limited project to better understand and test out the role of grassroots organizations in increasing equity in access to behavioral health services. The data from that project showed the important role grassroots organizations play in ensuring access to culturally responsive and welcoming behavioral health services. These funds would build on that work by continuing and expanding the behavioral health services WC4G provides. By bringing a therapist with a similar background to the girls into the group on a regular basis, the group moved to new levels of conversation, support, and insight. In addition, participants and their families would have 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.

County funds would be used specifically for the therapist's time for group and individual or family session, as well as other costs associated with providing the group sessions.

- | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| • | Therapist | Group Sessions | \$250 x 8 sessions | \$2000 |
| • | Group Supplies (food, activity materials) | \$100 x 8 sessions | \$800 | |
| • | Therapist | Individual/Family Sessions | \$180 x 30 sessions | \$5400 |
| • | Executive Director | time to coordinate | 36 hr x \$50 | \$1800 |

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

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 50 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 and goals for my future Quite a bit 14% Definitely 86%%

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.

The total amount received for the past three fiscal years:

Year	Amount	Project
2019 - 2020		
2018 - 2019		
2017 - 2018		

List of County funding received for this project or others.

WC4G has received a Breathe/Respira! Marin County Parks Community Grant in FY20-21.

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		\$10,000		
Federal Grant				
State Grant				
Individual Contributions		\$16,000	\$7,000	<i>\$16,000 in donations expected by end of FY20-21</i>
Other Local Agencies	MC Parks Dept	\$7,953	\$7,953	
In kind services		\$20,000	\$20,000	<i>Rent & some of WC4G Director's time are committed</i>
Other				
Total Sources		\$53,953	\$34,953	
Project Expenses		Budgeted	Spent to Date	Notes
Personnel Costs		\$24,000	\$6,000	<i>WC4G</i>
Services and Supplies		\$21,000	\$4,500	<i>Admin, Fiscal Agent 10%, Therapist, supplies/food</i>
Capital		\$0	\$0	
Other		\$12,000	\$1,500	<i>Rent, Field Trips/Activities</i>
Total Expenses		\$57,000	\$12,000	