

Program Info

Which SHD priority area will your program most directly impact?	Active and Healthy Living
If your program covers more than the primary priority selected above, please select all that apply below:	
What is the dollar amount you are requesting?	\$37,400.00
What is the overall budget for this program, including both the requested grant and other major funding sources?	\$37,400.00 Total Budget - Sequoia Healthcare District
Is this a new request to SHD, or a renewal of a program the District is currently funding?	New request
Is this grant request for your agency alone, or for a collaborative of agencies?	Agency alone
What basic activities/services will the program offer?	<p>Targeting the unincorporated neighborhood in North Fair Oaks in Redwood City, California, EGC will install one raised garden bed and plant two fruit-bearing, canopied trees for 20% of the low-income households located along McArthur Avenue, Warrington Avenue, Hampshire Avenue, and Hurlingame Avenue.</p> <p>EGC's services will provide culturally diverse, fresh foods to 20% of the houses on the listed streets, eventually expanding to include EGC's next pilot program, a neighborhood-scale garden for the apartment complexes. EGC's volunteer team will install a raised garden bed, provide seedlings, and design water irrigation systems that will allow households to circumvent the neighborhood's historic problem as a food desert by streamlining food access directly to their homes.</p> <p>Additionally, EGC is partnering with a local nonprofit, Canopy, to supplement the organization's tree planting efforts. EGC will provide volunteer support to transplant tree saplings for the households we are supporting in addition to Canopy's own trees. Planting saplings will</p>

	<p>provide shade to cool the area in order to make the streets more walkable and beautify the surrounding area. Due to significant roadblocks to Canopy's projects, EGC will offset the financial strain of installing tree saplings in the neighborhood to give support to the community.</p>
<p>Specific Outcomes you hope to achieve</p>	<p>EGC's primary outcome is to combat food insecurity in our target area by achieving a net increase in accessibility, variety, and density of fresh, nutritious foods. Our outcomes are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase food security for the hungry and under-nourished. 2. Increase the density of fresh produce. 3. Increase the variety of fresh produce. 4. Make fresh produce easily accessible to each household. 5. Decrease stress and improve emotional health. 6. Increase reports of improved quality of life. <p>Our commitment to providing infrastructural support facilitates EGC's desired outcomes, which are to increase food independence, health, community bonds, and environmental awareness of EGC's volunteers/participants as well as the food insecure who benefit via the produce cultivated and shared by EGC volunteers/participants.</p>
<p>What is unique or special about your approach?</p>	<p>EGC's most distinguishing feature is our clear yet diverse mission statement that attracts a wide variety of volunteers, donors, partners, and funders. We are the only local nonprofit that tackles installation, maintenance, and harvest of produce for donation. Additionally, many Bay Area nonprofits are constrained to geographic location. EGC prioritizes vulnerable communities in San Mateo County that are not currently serviced by similar nonprofits, like Collective Roots, who service East Palo Alto, or Valley Verde, who service Santa Clara County. EGC responds to this geographic need by providing a service to communities outside the scope of currently operating nonprofits.</p> <p>The scope of EGC's services are multivariable, responding to both the community's need for culturally-diverse food and a need for installation and maintenance support. Village Harvest, another nonprofit that does tremendous work in supporting our community, focuses primarily on the harvesting of fruit trees, but they do not provide installation or maintenance support. EGC</p>

sends out teams from our nearly 200-strong volunteer network to install, maintain, and, if needed, assist with the harvesting of fresh produce at our sites. The emphasis on maintenance and harvesting support distinguishes EGC from other nonprofits.

This unique aspect of EGC's work is why Canopy, another Bay Area nonprofit, is collaborating with EGC on our work in the North Fair Oaks neighborhood, a food desert. However, with their mission focused on shading and canopy cover, Canopy is limited in the type and size of fruiting trees they are able to plant. By leveraging our organizations shared objectives, EGC and Canopy can better combat the community's food scarcity problem through the planting of culturally-diverse produce ranging from root vegetables to fruiting trees.

How will you evaluate the success of the program?

EGC uses harvest totals to measure the success of our programs. Documenting our harvests will indicate the success of our programs using density and variability metrics.

1. Success will be evaluated on a comparative basis relative to the yields of our 2020 Living Campus sites over time.
2. Since EGC works in dialogue with our partnering households, determining realistic harvest yields will be dependent on the kind of produce desired by our hosts (i.e., Success metrics will be taken on a house-by-house basis, since EGC will install garden beds based on family needs rather than using a one-size-fits-all approach).

EGC will also evaluate our success based on the quantity of garden beds installed.

1. Install garden beds at 20% of the households. Given that there are an estimated 220 houses between the four (4) streets, this totals approximately 44 houses with 44 raised garden beds with food-producing plants.
2. Plant two (2) tree saplings to 20% of the households in the area. This totals to 88 trees for the 44 homes in our target area.

EGC is in the process of conversing with neighborhood leaders to determine best practices for soliciting feedback from the community, with the hope that households will participate in informal survey studies. EGC has led pilot survey-studies with our volunteers in

	<p>order to measure improvement in knowledge about food insecurity over time. We hope to develop these survey studies further to include informal research on our project sites to determine the effectiveness and scope of impact in the areas.</p>
<p>Why do you think this program is needed?</p>	<p>In the San Francisco Bay Area, high housing costs are a barrier for financial success and stability. In San Mateo County specifically, housing costs are so high that a family of four earning \$139,400 or less per year is considered low-income by the federal government, relevant when determining eligibility for assisted housing programs. That same family of four only, however, would only qualify for supplemental nutrition assistance (CalFresh) if they made less than \$51,504 per year. As a result, San Mateo County residents often struggle to cover basic expenses, all the while making “too much” money to qualify for CalFresh. Because of this, local food banks estimate that nearly 27% of people living in San Mateo County are considered food insecure.</p> <p>EGC is in conversation with Canopy, an organization that services the North Fair Oaks neighborhood. On 24 April 2021, Canopy has planned a tree installation event along the aforementioned streets. Supporting this event and supplementing Canopy’s projects is important because the community is a low-income neighborhood located in a food desert. The residents of this neighborhood lack trees to provide adequate shade outside as well as lack accessible food sources for healthy and nutritional food. Furthermore, Canopy has expressed that they have experienced several roadblocks in attaining infrastructural support to combat the effects of food scarcity and climate change.</p> <p>According to the US Census Bureau, the North Fair Oaks neighborhood’s median income as of 2019 is \$77,899.00 per year with the per capita income totalling \$35,031.00. For perspective, the median income for the rest of Redwood City is \$117,123.00 with a per capita income at \$60,389.00. This same study done by the Census Bureau estimates that 15% of people living in this neighborhood are persons in poverty. This substantiates EGC’s analysis about the relationship between income, geography, and state-subsistence programs. The North Fair Oaks neighborhood is a disenfranchised neighborhood in need. EGC can offset the costs of food while simultaneously ensuring that</p>

	<p>residents receive a variety of culturally-diverse, nutritious food directly from their backyards.</p> <p>The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated wealth disparities in the United States, disproportionately affecting non-white, low-income neighborhoods. Food insecurity is a metric to gauge the effects of these wealth disparities. Lauren Lathan Reid, Communications Director of the Association of Food Banks, notes that food insecurity has hit certain counties in California harder than others, San Mateo County being one of them. Lathan Reid notes that overall hunger compounded to nearly 113% of what it was pre-pandemic, with three times as many people seeking services from various food bank organizations.</p> <p>EGC's programs are needed because EGC addresses the effects of food insecurity, a problem with increasing urgency as we continue to navigate a post-pandemic landscape. To fund EGC is to support low-income communities that may be struggling with employment, housing, and food costs.</p>
<p>What evidence do you have that indicates that this program will effectively address the problem stated above? (For new programs you may want to indicate what research that you have done that has led you to this conclusion.)</p> <p>Please limit your answer to 2 paragraphs</p>	<p>Providing garden beds will address food scarcity in the North Fair Oaks neighborhood. EGC's Living Campus sites produced nearly 940 pounds of fresh produce since initial installations in June of 2020, about six months. Our Residential Garden sites have also produced approximately 350 pounds of fresh produce in 2020. These include but are not limited to: swiss chard, mint, bok choy, tomatillo, jalapeños, eggplant, kale, rhubarb, and spicy peppers. Expanding our programs with more funding and allowing them a full year to develop will only substantiate these early findings.</p> <p>EGC also has a variety of feedback from our Living Campus site partners, including the San Carlos School District. In one letter of support, Michelle Harmeier, the Superintendent, writes: "[EGC] has created a win-win-win situation for our community. Funding them will support the expansion of their valuable work..." Miss Harmeier also corroborates that EGC designed the space, irrigation systems, and shading, as well as followed up with our sites with our team of volunteers. Not only do our sites produce food to address food insecurity, EGC also maintains a continuing relationship with the sites, providing maintenance and other infrastructural support.</p>

What type of services will be delivered?

- Garden Bed Installations
- Planting of tree saplings

How many total of each type of service will be delivered to clients within this program?

- Garden Bed Installations: 44
- Planting of tree saplings: 88

Group 1 Zip Codes: # of clients expected to be served:

94028 (PV)

94027 (ATH)

94061 (RWC)

94063 (RWC)

750

94065 (RWS)

94070 (SCA)

94002 (BEL)

94062 (WOO)

Sum: 750

Group 2 Zip Codes: # of clients expected to be served:

94025 (MP)

94404 (FC)

94403 (SMA)

94019 (HMB)

Sum:

Total District Clients Served

What is the total number of clients your program will serve?

750

What is the percentage of SHD District clients? (District clients served/Total clients)

All clients are SHD District clients (100%)

Approximately how many of the total District residents will be female, male or non gender specific?

Number Served

Female

50.1% (375)

Male

49.9% (374)

Non gender specific

Sum: 750

Please select the primary age range of the residents to be served through this program:

18-64.

Please select the primary ethnicity of the residents to be served through this program:

Latino.