

Print Application

RFP Title: Youth Community Access Grant Program 2022

Project Title: Beyond Gilroy: Nature, Exploration, and Empowerment

Estimated Date of Completion: 05/31/2026

Funds Requested(\$): 291,006.00

Other Sources of Funds(\$): 0.00

Total Budget(\$): 291,006.00

Applicant Organization: City of Gilroy

County: Santa Clara **City/Town:** Gilroy

Applicant Address: 7351 Rosanna Street , Gilroy , CA - 95020

Project Address: 7351 Rosanna St

Federal Tax ID: 946000340

Senate District: 17

Assembly District: 30

US Congressional District: 19,20,

Project Description:

A three year nature exploration program for 120 youth that includes regional field trips and local classroom based activities.

Latitude: 37.004610000 **Longitude:** -121.572440000 **Coordinates Represent:** Gilroy City Hall
Coordinates Determined Using: Google Maps

Project Director (Applicant's Representative Authorized in Resolution) (Signature required at bottom of this page)

Name: Jimmy - Forbis **Title:** Project Director: Authorized Representative
Phone: 408-846-0202 **Email:** Jimmy.Forbis@ci.gilroy.ca.us

Project Manager - Person with day to day responsibility for project (if different from authorized representative)

Name: Adam - Henig **Title:** Project Manager: Day to day contact
Phone: 408-846-0460 **Email:** Adam.Henig@ci.gilroy.ca.us

I certify that the information contained in this project application, including required attachments, is complete and accurate

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____
 Applicant's Authorized Representative as shown in Resolution

Print Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Application Overview

RFP Title: Youth Community Access Grant Program 2022

Submitting Organization: Ilya Malinsky

Submitting Organization:

Division:

Project Title: Beyond Gilroy: Nature, Exploration, and Empowerment

Project Description: A three year nature exploration program for 120 youth that includes regional field trips and local classroom based activities.

Water System ID:

District Office:

APPLICANT DETAILS

Applicant City of Gilroy

Organization:

Applicant

Organization

Division:

Applicant Address: 7351 Rosanna Street , Gilroy , CA - 95020

PROJECT LOCATION

Latitude : 37.004610000

Longitude: -121.572440000

Watershed: Uvas-Llagas

County: Santa Clara

Estimated Date of 05/31/2026

Completion:

Project Address (or nearest cross street): 7351 Rosanna St

Nearest City/Town: Gilroy

Cordinates Gilroy City Hall

Represent:

Coordinates Google Maps

Determined Using:

PROJECT BUDGET

Funds Requested(\$): 291,006.00

Other Sources of 0.00

Funds(\$):

Total Budget(\$): 291,006.00

Funding Program

Proposition 64

Applied

Yes

Project Management Role	Title	First Name	Last Name	Phone	Fax	Email
Project Director: Authorized Representative	City Manager	Jimmy	Forbis	408-846-0202		Jimmy.Forbis@ci.gilroy.ca.us
Project Manager: Day to day contact	Recreation Manager	Adam	Henig	408-846-0460		Adam.Henig@ci.gilroy.ca.us

Applicant Information

Name: City of Gilroy

Division:

Address: 7351 Rosanna Street Gilroy, CA , 95020

Federal Tax ID: 946000340

Person Submitting Information

Submitter Ilya Malinsky

Name:

Submitter 213-375-8162

Phone:

Submitter

Fax:

Submitter ilya@californiaconsulting.org

Email:

Legislative Information

Primary

Additional District(s)

Senate District

17

Assembly District

30

US Congressional District

19,20,

Contacts**Name****Phone****Email**

City of Gilroy

Adam Henig

408-846-0460

Adam.Henig@ci.gilroy.ca.us

Cooperating Entities**Role****Name****Phone****Email****There are no COOPERATING ENTITIES to display.****Pre Submission Attachment Title****Phase****Submission Period****Date & Time**[1.1 Proposal Form Signature Page](#)

PHASE1

PRE SUBMISSION

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[1.2 Gilroy Community Fact Finder Report](#)

PHASE1

PRE SUBMISSION

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[1.2 Gilroy DAC Map from GIS using ACS Block 2016-2020 data](#)

PHASE1

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[1.3 Cost Estimate](#)

PHASE1

PRE SUBMISSION

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[1.5 Supporting Documentation](#)

PHASE1

PRE SUBMISSION

7/29/2022 11:01:40 AM

[Download all Pre Submission Attachments](#)**Post Submission Attachment Title****Phase****Date & Time Attached****No Post Submission Attachments Available to Display****Post Award Attachment Title****Phase****Date & Time Attached****No Post Award Attachments Available to Display****Questionnaire - Phase1****PROJECT QUESTIONS**

Applicants must answer the following questions. If a question does not apply to the project, indicate "Not Applicable" with a brief explanation. Do not leave blank fields. Be sure to address all parts of each question. Answers are limited to 3,000 characters.

The Project

- 1 Describe the discrete project the grant would fund. The information provided should include grant deliverables and support the cost estimate submitted with the proposal. See Appendix J for definition of and examples of grant deliverables.

The following project-specific information should be included in response to this question (as applicable):

- a The approximate number of experiences with natural or cultural resources youth will have (e.g., field trips, days at camp), the length of the project funded by the grant, any cost for youth to participate, and percentage of classroom versus outdoor program time.

Answer: The proposed project is a three-year program that will offer 120 socio-economically disadvantaged youth the opportunity to attend free nature field trips while learning about the importance of conservation, cultural preservation, and survival skills. The program will encourage youth from low-income households and neighborhoods to explore beautiful natural destinations in the Santa Clara County region and beyond. Each year of the program will include three day trips (to different destinations) and one multi-day overnight trip. Before each trip, youth will learn about conservation and other natural and cultural resource related concepts in a classroom setting. Each classroom activity will be between 1 and 3 hours. The classroom activities and nature area trips will be led by City Recreation staff and a contracted naturalist from a local nonprofit educational organization that focuses working with underprivileged youth and teens. Classroom sessions will include team-building games and lessons about the cultural history and impacts of climate change on the natural sites that will be visited.

Each year's program will have two cohorts – 15 to 20 middle school and 15 to 20 high school students. This will ensure that both cohorts can fit on one bus, along with City staff and contract staff. After each year of the program, City staff will select high school students to act as student leader volunteers for the subsequent year's program.

City staff will work to identify and secure additional funding and donations for the programs, using the CNRA grant funding as leverage. Destinations may include state and national parks within California, including Mt. Madonna (Santa Clara County), Henry Coe State Park, Point Lobos State Reserve, and Yosemite National Park.

- b A description of the clean vehicle to be acquired and how the vehicle will be used both during and after the grant period.**

Answer: N/A - no vehicle requested

- c For Development Projects (e.g., construction): The percentage of the project footprint located within a low-income community, the owners of the property on which the project will take place, the status of any agreements needed to access and implement the project, and plans for long-term operations and maintenance of the project.**

Answer: N/A - no construction requested

Requirements and Project Need

- 2 What is the age range of youth to be served by the project?**

Answer: Youth will be between the ages of 12-18 – middle school and high school students.

- 3 How many youth will be served by the project funded with the grant and across what time period?**

Answer: 120-90 students over the course of three years. The program will serve 30 to 40 students per school year (between August and May).

- 4 How will youth be recruited to participate in the project?**

Answer: Youth will be recruited with the assistance of the South County Youth Task Force (SCYTF), a regional multi-agency collaboration focused on at-risk youth led by the City of Gilroy. Recruitment efforts will be focused on engaging youth within Gilroy's most disadvantaged neighborhoods and vulnerable populations. This will include but not be limited to low-income youth, youth of color, and youth residing in Gilroy's known DAC neighborhoods. Youth will be referred to the program through the SCYTF technical team's multi-disciplinary team meetings, as well as through other community based organizations and school district referrals. Community outreach will occur in public areas within Gilroy's DACs as well as through print and electronic advertisements using City and school district email databases.

- 5 Will at least 80% of youth served through the project live within a low-income community and/or household?**

Answer: I Yes

- 6 How will applicant ensure that at least 80% of youth served through the project live within a low income household and/or community?**

Answer: The City of Gilroy recreation division has an established free program for low income youth that requires income verification. Participants will be required to meet the income guidelines set by the US Federal Government Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). A sample CDBG intake income assessment form is part of application as an attachment.

- 7 Will at least 80% of the youth to be served be members of an underserved community of color and/or a vulnerable population?**

Answer: I Yes

- 8 Describe the underserved communities of color and/or vulnerable populations to which at least 80% of youth participants will belong.**

Answer: The underserved communities within Gilroy are comprised largely of Latino families— for many of whom English is a second language — and are located on the eastern side of town, with the highest concentration of low-income households located in Census Tracts 512511 and 512603. Both these tracts are considered Disadvantaged Communities according to the DAC Mapping Tool using ACS 2016-2020 data. This population is facing adverse conditions such as overcrowding (i.e., multiple families living in single housing units), low educational attainment, high diabetes rates, and limited access to transportation.

South County/East Gilroy (zip code 95020) is a geographic region located at the southern end of Santa Clara County. The so-called "South County" is racially and linguistically diverse with one quarter of its Gilroy residents born outside the United States (primarily Mexico) and 46% speaking a language other than English in the home. South County has a greater Latino/Hispanic presence in Gilroy -- 61.1% than the California average of 38.8% (Data USA, 2017). Per capita, Gilroy has the most validated gang members of any city in the county, with 42% greater than San Jose (2017). Out of the top ten zip codes with arrests and citations in 2019, Gilroy ranked 1st with 273 juvenile arrests/citations, increasing by 34 % from 2018 and Morgan Hill increased by 41% at 168

arrests/citations, moving from 7th to 4th in ranking (Santa Clara County Probation Department, 2019).

Additionally, Gilroy has the lowest life-expectancy of any zip code in Santa Clara County, with East Gilroy having the very lowest and East San Jose having the second lowest. In comparison to other jurisdictions in the county, South County ranks third in the number of children entering Foster Care (24, 9.3%) and has the highest general neglect (GN) referral rates, allegations of child abuse and/or neglect (532, 7.9%), substantiated allegations (140; 10.3%), and voluntary cases opened due to allegation of GN (52, 9.4%). These issues are compounded by the economic challenges facing South County families who often work multiple jobs to meet the exacerbated cost of housing, food, and transportation. While income disparity is evident throughout the county, with the top income families earning almost 16.4 times more than low-income families, families residing in East Gilroy earn a Median Household Income (MHI) of \$39,915 in comparison to San Jose's \$93,854. With poor job prospects for an increasing young population, a sense of hopelessness permeates the lives of at-risk and gang-impacted youth in the region (California Department of Education [CDE], 2016).

9 How will applicant ensure that at least 80% of the youth to be served are members of underserved communities of color and/or vulnerable populations? (If funded, documentation must be available upon request and for audit purposes.)

Answer: The City will use the official CDBG income verification program application to recruit and capture key demographic information on potential program participants. Demographic information that will be collected includes race, ethnicity, disability, household size, household income, and income verification in the form of either: free and reduced lunch eligibility, MediCal eligibility, Section 8 housing status, and/or foster care status.

10 Provide specific examples of natural and/or cultural resources youth will access because of the project.

Answer: 1. Mt. Madonna (Santa Clara County) – At this park, which has old growth Redwoods, students will learn about the native inhabitants of the land. The main tribe is the Costanoan Rumsen (also known as the Ohlone). Students will also learn about cattle rancher Henry Miller, whose descendants donated the land to the County, which was the basis for the inception of the park.

2. Point Lobos State Reserve – Point Lobos offers a different topography than the other parks. Based on the coast, it is part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The wildlife at this site includes seals, sea lions, sea otters, migrating gray whales and thousands of seabirds.

3. Yosemite National Park – At Yosemite, students will learn about the tribes who once inhabited the land. They'll also learn about Yosemite's historical significance among the national parks. Students will have an opportunity to camp overnight, hike along the majestic mountains, and observe the unique wildlife.

11 Describe how the project addresses a critical need of the youth served.

Answer: This program will be specifically aimed at improving access of natural destinations for youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. There are many students in Gilroy who have not had the opportunity to experience and explore the outdoors beyond the city limits. The City is planning to focus on recruiting youth with existing juvenile arrest records or truancy concerns based on reports provided by the County and other local nonprofit organizations that serve students under the age of 18.

Providing free nature access programs for disadvantaged youth will improve outcomes for students who are at risk of falling behind in school and being exposed to the criminal justice system. Collectively, these trips will provide a sense of purpose, an opportunity to for youth to lead one another, and a nature and history oriented perspective beyond their immediate surroundings — for example, how their day-to-day actions impact the planet.

12 Briefly describe the applicant's mission and how it ties to the goals of the Youth Community Access Grant Program.

Answer: City of Gilroy Recreation's mission is to bring the community together and create memories that last a lifetime. The proposed nature trip program fits within this mission — to bring youth together and provide them with opportunities and experiences that will have a profound impact on their lives. They'll learn about the role and importance of our natural surroundings and why it's imperative that we maintain it for generations to come. Students will also develop critical life skills that will build their self-esteem, teach them to work together effectively, nurture peer-to-peer and mentor/mentee relationships, and enhance their logistical planning abilities. At the conclusion of the program, the students will hopefully feel a stronger sense of inclusion and confidence.

13 What steps will be taken to address youth safety, well-being, comfort, and cultural relevance throughout the project?

Answer: To ensure that participating youth are comfortable and safe while participating in the program, all staff and volunteers will be screened through the City of Gilroy. In addition, staff in this program will have experience working with disadvantaged youth and teens. These staff and volunteers will serve as role models and will enforce positive social behavior through verbal and non-verbal communication and safe physical activity. The City will supply participants with healthy food and drinks during trips and activities and provide safety equipment needed for each trip. To address cultural relevance, youth will learn about the indigenous communities and general history of each nature area prior to visiting.

14 Describe the specific training staff receive in areas such as safety, risk management, cultural competency, trauma informed practices, etc.

Answer: All City staff and volunteers involved in the program will have undergone criminal and work history background checks, on-boarding, and mandated reporter training. The City will require the contractor to conduct background checks on any staff that will be working with youth. The contracted naturalist will also have extensive experience working with underprivileged youth. They will train City staff and volunteers on basic safety protocol when in the wilderness. In order to build cultural competence and center trauma informed care in the program curriculum and interpersonal interactions, staff involved in this program will have undergone trainings such as A Lifeworks Framework, International Institute for Restorative Practices training, National Compadres Network cultural trainings, and/or Xinachtli rites of passage. The program staff, service providers and leaders will demographically reflect the targeted population intended to be served.

15 Describe any existing ADA accessibility accommodations available to youth and/or planned accommodations included with this proposal.

Answer: City staff will ensure that participating youth requiring ADA accessibility are accommodated. Wheelchair lift transportation is available for each excursion. If a participating student has special needs and will need an aide to assist, the City will work with the participant and their family to accommodate their needs.

Funding Priorities

16 Describe any youth leadership opportunities during project development and/or implementation. Provide information pertaining to any distinct youth participant roles that may be applicable (e.g., interns, youth advisory committee, etc.).

Answer: Each year's program will have two cohorts – 20 middle school aged youth and 20 high school aged youth. At the end of the program each year, City staff will select up to four youth (2 from each cohort) to act as youth activity leaders volunteers for the subsequent year's program. Serving in a leadership role, these students will be part of the planning process and able to provide feedback and support implementation from a youth perspective. After year two, another set of cohorts will be selected to serve as youth activity leaders during year three.

17 Of the total number of youth participants, how many will be given leadership opportunities during project development or implementation? If distinct roles are applicable, how many youth are anticipated for each role?

Answer: Four (4) youth from each year's cohorts will be recruited for Youth Activity Leader positions, for a total of 8 youth leaders.

18 What skills and knowledge will youth gain because of the project?

Answer: Youth will learn outdoor safety and survival skills, regional flora and fauna, the impact of climate change and how to prevent further damage to the planet, the history of each park's indigenous cultural and historical heritage, interpersonal skills, and team building skills. Youth will also have opportunities to serve as leaders in small groups and, in some cases, for their entire cohort. Youth will explore and gain an understanding of community building and the impact of making healthy lifestyle choices.

19 Describe lasting impacts of the project and how project experiences will continue to influence youth participants after the project concludes.

Answer: Through successful participation in classroom learning and nature trips, youth participants will develop a stronger connection with the natural environment and improved self-esteem. Those who demonstrate leadership capabilities can apply to become a Youth Activity Leader and mentor future cohorts. This will support the legacy of the program and thus the sustainability of the project. Through the program, students will develop a deeper connection to themselves, their peers, and community that will influence their interactions in school, home and community spaces. Some youth may be motivated to start a hiking club at their school or a community group committed to bringing awareness about the local impacts of climate change.

20 Describe any youth participation in public awareness/outreach campaigns before and/or after project completion.

Answer: Youth will be documenting their experiences both in a personal diary and through multi-media presentations. In small groups, students will be asked to make a public service announcement about the importance of the natural environment and why it needs to be protected for future use. They'll also discuss their experience in the program and how it has helped them appreciate the world around them. These videos will be distributed through the City's social media and e-newsletter platforms. After each year's program is completed, youth activity leaders and participants will make a presentation to the Gilroy Parks and Recreation Commission and the Gilroy City Council, where they will demonstrate what they have learned and how the program has benefited them.

21 Explain how the project encourages and empowers youth to make healthy choices during and beyond the project.

Answer: City staff will ensure that youth have access to healthy nutritional meals during activities and trips. There will also be lessons about the importance of consuming nutritious and fresh foods. Youth will have the opportunity to plan healthy meals/snacks with staff to practice healthy choices. The project aims to provide positive recreational opportunities in nature with positive adult role models to support mental, physical, and spiritual healing and education in nature. Youth will learn to seek alternative choices to negative coping strategies and negative influences.

Project Readiness

22 Describe the immediate steps to be taken post-grant award.

Answer: If selected for an award, staff will send the required Authorizing Resolution to City Council for approval. The Recreation Manager will then identify key staff that will be involved with the program. City staff will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to contract the services of a professional naturalist organization that has experience working with socio-economically disadvantaged youth and teens in the outdoors. Staff will also obtain quotes for a charter transportation company for its offsite trips. Recruitment of participants will be conducted through the distribution of a school flyer and disseminating the information to the South County Youth Taskforce network that includes the Spanish-language community group "Promotores" and Gilroy's "Late Night Gym" (LNG) program. The youth in LNG have been identified as requiring additional social and emotional support.

23 Explain how the applicant will fill any funding gaps to complete the project.

Answer: Any gaps in project funding will be supplemented by the City of Gilroy's Recreation Division budget. During the program's implementation, City staff will apply for local and private grants that may supplement the program's funding. The City currently has an ongoing grant from Santa Clara County Valley Transportation Authority's "2016 Measure B Bike-Pedestrian Education and Encouragement Fund," which reimburses qualifying agencies for expenses that were used to promote bicycling, walking and/or hiking in Gilroy.

24 If the project requires hiring of staff, explain the timeline for hiring and specific role(s) to the discrete project proposed for grant funding.

Answer: The program will utilize existing City Recreation staff: Community Coordinator, Recreation Manager, Recreation Specialists, and Recreation Leaders. The City also plans to augment supervision and program implementation by contracting the services of a professional naturalist through the RFP process. This process typically takes three to five months to complete.

25 If the project requires approval from entities other than applicant, provide the status of discussions and approvals.

Answer: Once this project is approved by CNRA, Gilroy City Council will approve an authorizing resolution to move forward with the grant funding agreement and program.

26 If applicable, provide the status of communications about the project with entities (e.g., schools, non-profit organizations, foster system, etc.) from which youth will be recruited.

Answer: Once the school year begins in August 2022, City staff will discuss this project with South County Youth Taskforce, Gilroy Unified School District, Santa Clara County Department of Probation, and other key stakeholders.

27 If a development project (e.g., construction), will the project trigger any permits and/or environmental reviews? If so, provide the status and/or anticipated timeline of applicable compliance measures.

Answer: Not applicable -- not a development project.

Organizational Capacity and Collaboration

28 Describe the applicant's ability and experience with fundraising (e.g., grants, donations, etc.).

Answer: Past grants and donations:

2022

Donations:

Gilroy Assistance League (GAL): \$3,000 to Gilroy Youth Center (after school program)

Gilroy Rotary Club: \$2500 toward Party in the Park special event

2021

Donations:

Exchange Club: \$300 toward Youth Scholarship Fund

Gilroy Chevy: \$1000 Youth Sports

Gilroy Foundation:

Senior Center - \$425

Youth Scholarship Fund - \$6100

2020

Donations:

Exchange Club: \$300 toward Youth Scholarship Fund

Gilroy Rotary Club: \$2500 toward Kids Discover Arts special event, \$2500 toward Party in the Park special event

2019:

Grant:

Santa Clara County: \$1000 toward Community Fireworks display

29 Describe the applicant's experience in completing similar projects.

Answer: The City facilitates a CDBG grant funded summer day camp program that serves Gilroy's low-income residents following HUD income guidelines. See attachment for supplemental information about this summer youth program.

The Recreation Division runs recreation and athletic programs that serve youth from all socioeconomic backgrounds, including low-income youth and those residing in DACs. Participation fees are waived on a case-by-case basis depending on individual needs and household income.

30 Describe the applicant's fiscal capacity to carry out the proposed project.

Answer: The City's General Fund, which provides the funding for the Recreation Division, will enable staff to fill any unexpected funding gaps. The City of Gilroy is a fiscally solvent municipality.

31 What is the applicant's primary source of revenue?

Answer: The City of Gilroy Recreation Division is funded by city taxes and user fees.

32 Describe any partnerships with other entities and their roles in the project.

Answer: Through an RFP, the City will work with a contracted non-profit naturalist organization that will facilitate a class curriculum and lead students on four excursions. The South County Youth Taskforce will help the City recruit and refer youth participants. The Taskforce is comprised of local school districts, community-based organizations, school resource officers, and probation officers.

33 If funded, what documentation will applicant use to demonstrate that the project was successful—i.e., met expected outcomes and benefitted the intended audience?

Answer: To demonstrate and evaluate project success and effectiveness, City staff will use pre- and post- program surveys of youth participants at the start and end of each school semester. City staff will also take photos and document the naturalist curriculum for internal evaluation purposes.

Additional Project Characteristics

34 Describe other project characteristics not previously discussed that would assist in evaluating the proposal. (No

response or an answer of "Not Applicable" will be given a score of zero).

Answer: Not applicable.

Certification And Submission Statement

Please read before signing and submitting application.

I certify under penalty of perjury:

- The information entered on behalf of Applicant Organization is true and complete to the best of my knowledge;
- I am an employee of or a consultant for the Applicant Organization authorized to submit the application on behalf of the Applicant Organization; and
- I understand that any false, incomplete or incorrect statements may result in the disqualification of this application.

By signing this application, I waive any and all rights to privacy and confidentiality of the proposal on behalf of the applicant, to the extent provided in this RFP.

Submission By: imalinsky

Submitter Initials: IM

Submission Date: 7/29/2022 4:23:10 PM