

	Lifelong Learning
Application Completeness Check for 2026 HSAB Funding	Lifelong Learning -smtx
Amount Requested	\$9,500
Questions	
Are all questions answered?	Yes
Is the application signed? (this is a certification)	Yes
Does the program have measurable outcomes?	Yes
Is the agency a Human Services Agency?	Yes
Is the agency overseen by a Board of Directors?	Yes
Required Attachments	
BUDGETS	
1. Program budget for current fiscal year	Yes
2. Program budget proposed for next fiscal year	Yes
3. Budget showing the exact uses of the HSAB funding, to be included in the contract	Yes
BOARD OF DIRECTORS INFORMATION	
4. Board of Directors membership roster	Yes
5. Board of Directors City of Residence	Yes
6. Board of Directors Meeting Attendance Record	Yes
7. Board of Directors membership criteria	Yes
ORGANIZATION INFORMATION	
8. Current IRS Form 990, pages 1 and 2 (not required for churches)	NA
9. Non-discrimination policy statement	Yes
PROGRAM INFORMATION	
10. Final Performance Report for 2024 Funding (if funded)	NA
11. Letters of support for the program - how many	3 letters
12. Policies and Procedures for the proposed Program, if available	Not Available



FY 2026 Application City of San Marcos Human Services Grant

I. SUMMARY INFORMATION

Applicant Organization: LifeLong Learning Organization of San Marcos, Texas

Contact Name: Dr. Marianne Reese **Telephone:** [REDACTED]

Contact E-Mail Address: [REDACTED] **Website:** www.LLLsanmarcos.org

Mailing Address: 1411 Madrid Trace, San Marcos, TX 78666

San Marcos Service Address for this Program: 1411 Madrid Trace, San Marcos, TX 78666

Who is authorized to execute program documents? Dr. Marianne Reese, Founder and Director

Program Name: LifeLong Learning-smtx

Amount of Funds Requested: \$9,500.00

What percentage of the cost of this program is requested as funding through this application? 32%

II. QUESTIONS

OVERVIEW

- 1. Summarize the program for which funding is being requested, the services it provides, and the clients served.**

A. Summary

Over our 11 years of delivering stimulating and engaging courses, lectures, tours, and unique presentation series—and establishing beneficial partnerships with other nonprofits—LifeLong Learning - San Marcos has provided ever-increasing opportunities for San Marcos-area adult “students” to form new relationships, engage in meaningful volunteerism by sharing their expertise, learn new hobbies, learn about themselves and their community, and be cognitively stimulated.

Our wide variety of offerings are presented at local venues and via Zoom by community members and Texas State professors and retirees who have rich knowledge of their subject areas and are excited to share that knowledge. Course content has included the arts (e.g., art history, drawing, quilting, writing, playing the ukulele, the mechanics of music), Texas history via the Bullock State History Museum, science (e.g., geology of the Hill Country, Chemistry in the Kitchen, Texas State’s “body farm”), health and wellness activities (e.g., line dancing, bowling, flexibility and balance, ping-pong), speaking Spanish, philosophy, genealogy, current affairs (e.g., the U.S. Supreme Court), challenges facing America (e.g., health and educational disparities, racism, income inequality), Hispanic heritage, slavery in early Texas, sex trafficking, bipartisan discussions of election issues, and book clubs (mystery, science fiction, Texas and western literature, and the Wittliff Book+ Club).

B. Services Provided

- Free and low-cost courses in person and via Zoom: Typically, one- to two-hour sessions each week for four to six weeks. Content has included art history, theatre history, genealogy, geology, chemistry, physics, ukulele, Spanish, American history, and current events. Zoom sessions are one to two hours provided through the Print Museum of Houston, Bullock Texas State Historical Museum, and Connect2Texas, a network of Texas-based educational content providers including museums, authors, and cultural, historical, and scientific organizations.
- Free in-person and Zoom tours: 9/11 Museum in New York City, Flatbed Press in Austin, the Art of David Everett held by The Wittliff Collections at Texas State as well as a virtual tour of his art studio, Texas State Forensic Anthropology Research Center (aka “body farm”), and one-day bus tours: Geology class Texas Hill Country, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Bullock State History Museum and the Blanton Art Museum.
- Free in person and Zoom book clubs: Mystery, Science Fiction, and The Wittliff Book+ Club, which links archival materials with authors and their works.
- Free Presentation Series at the San Marcos Public Library: Unique topics presented by local experts once per week for five to seven consecutive weeks. Topics have included Studying the Formation of Terrestrial Planets, How to Communicate Like C.S. Lewis, Sculptural Explorations, Macroinvertebrates in the San Marcos River, Britt Johnson—the Man and the Myth, San Marcos Police Department initiatives, healthy and nutritious eating habits, human trafficking, and cults.
- LifeLong Learning forms mutually beneficial partnerships with local nonprofits to offer programs and help support upcoming events. Past and current partners include the San Marcos Public Library, San Marcos Parks and Recreation, Mermaid Society, Cheatham Street Warehouse, KZSM-San Marcos Community Radio, Price Center, Youth Service Bureau, Area Agency on Aging of the Capital Area, Texas State International Piano Festival, Aging Forward Central Texas, and Texas State University.

C. Clients Served

On April 2, 2024, the City of San Marcos issued a proclamation recognizing LifeLong Learning’s decade of impactful service to older adults in the area. Data from 2015-2024 and the first half of 2025 provide a snapshot of LLL-smtx participants:

- over 21,900 (duplicated) individuals have participated in courses and events
- ≈150 individuals have served as instructors and presenters
- ≈90% of participants live in San Marcos; the remaining 10% live in Austin, Buda, Kyle, Canyon Lake, Lockhart, Martindale, New Braunfels, Spring Lake, and Wimberley as well as California, Florida, Georgia, Maine, and Massachusetts
- 68% of participants are women
- the average age of participants is 67 years

COMMUNITY NEED AND JUSTIFICATION

1. Describe in detail the need for this program in San Marcos.

LifeLong Learning targets the 60+ population—all adults are welcome—and, as noted above, the average age of participants is 67 years. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the San Marcos population aged 60 years and older exploded from 2010 to 2020, growing from 3,809 to 11,189—a 189% increase. Estimates for 2023 show 12,861 seniors, a 17% increase from 2020.

In recent years, San Marcos has been touted as a “best place to retire” (e.g., Forbes, Southern Living) and the senior populations in Kissing Tree and La Cima, among other neighborhoods, indicate increasing numbers of retirees are choosing San Marcos as the place to begin their next phase of life.

In communities where major universities exist, the university often coordinates and provides regular adult learning opportunities for the citizens of their community. Unfortunately, this is not the case in San Marcos, nor does the City of San Marcos or school district offer programming for adult learners. Therefore, LifeLong Learning fills a critical need by targeting San Marcos adults to ensure they have meaningful opportunities to explore, learn, and engage with others.

2. Has the need for this program been increasing in recent years?

In addition to the continuing growth of San Marcos’s senior population as noted above, LifeLong Learning helps mitigate what the U.S. Surgeon General in 2023 called an “epidemic of loneliness and isolation.”

A recently published review of six years of data from the National Poll on Healthy Aging revealed that in 2024, 33% of older adults felt lonely some of the time or often in the past year, about the same as the rate in 2018 (34%). Similarly, 29% of older adults said they felt isolated some of the time or often in 2024, just above the rate of 27% seen in 2018. Not surprisingly, these outcomes spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also know that women who are widowed and seniors with health issues tend to suffer more from loneliness and isolation.

Research consistently finds that affording adults opportunities to learn and engage with others yields significant social, emotional, and physical health benefits. The UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning notes that, “Lifelong learning plays a crucial role in reskilling older adults, bolstering their autonomy, promoting healthy and active aging, and enhancing their quality of life.”

To combat the isolation and loneliness experienced by many of our participants during the pandemic, we moved all our programming to Zoom to ensure LifeLong Learning participants had regular opportunities to engage in learning and social stimulation. In a March 2021 survey of our 623 contacts (15% response rate), 67% of respondents wanted Zoom courses to continue beyond the Covid restrictions. Due to their popularity and convenience, we continue to offer courses, book clubs, and events via Zoom.

Additionally, due to increasing food insecurity rates, LifeLong Learning is partnering with Aging Forward Central Texas and the San Marcos Housing Authority (SMHA) to continue to deliver *Healthy Basics... A Nourishment Course*. This course was delivered in late 2024 and early 2025 in the CM Allen Homes and is scheduled for Springtown Villa in August 2025. The program is offered to low-income seniors to reduce social isolation and food insecurity through sharing information on the basics of nutrition, health, disease, and food safety and demonstrating how to be creative in the kitchen to prepare healthy meals and snacks. We will deliver at least two courses in 2026.

LLL-smtx’s mission to provide accessible no-cost/low-cost experiences for San Marcos-area adults to explore, question, learn, and engage with others resonates with our community and

we strive to grow the frequency and variety of our offerings in direct response to their needs and interests.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Are all resources in place to be able to implement this program? If not, what is missing?

Transitioning from the leadership of Marianne Reese, LifeLong Learning's founder and director, will be a priority during 2026 and our funding request is essential to enabling that transition.

Since she created LLL-smtx in 2014, Dr. Reese has been largely responsible for operating the organization, including identifying and scheduling presenters and other learning opportunities. She has donated personal funds when needed, used her home as LifeLong Learning's office, and always served as a volunteer. Dr. Reese will retire from the director's role in 2026 and the current assistant director will begin to assume the duties of the director. However, the assistant director will need modest payment as she transitions into the director's role.

Moving from a volunteer to part-time paid director will require stable sources of funding moving forward. Thus, the need to significantly increase revenue is a top priority while maintaining the quality and number of offerings. While more targeted fundraising is being discussed, the following actions have been taken to increase LifeLong Learning funding:

- LLL is now "vendor" for the City of San Marcos, which means 80% of the total fees collected for classes held at any of the Parks and Recreation's venues comes to LifeLong Learning
- donations are actively sought at each session conducted at the San Marcos Public Library
- some, but not all, Zoom sessions require a low-cost fee
- fundraisers are held at least twice per year at Jason's Deli
- bus tours are priced so LLL nets between \$200-\$300
- more active grant-seeking
- based on the findings of an August 2024 ad hoc committee report, the director and advisory council have decided to implement an annual membership fee of \$100.00.

As LifeLong Learning continues to bolster its fundraising, 2026 Human Services funding will be critical to helping us navigate a successful transition while maintaining the integrity of our programming. Specifically, the requested \$9,500 funding will be allocated as follows:

- Assistant Director to Director – \$8,000.00
Partial support for the assistant director's \$1,000/month stipend for transition into the director's role to include identifying and scheduling learning opportunities, fundraising, website maintenance, and email/communications
- Content Support, Technology, and Supplies—\$1,500
Partial support for content provider fees and copyright licenses, technology support (i.e., website platform and Zoom), and office supplies

2. What specific, measurable outcomes or results do you hope to achieve with this program?

- 15% increase in number of unduplicated participants
- Minimum of 80% overall quality of courses and events as reported by participants
- 30 SMHA residents register for *Healthier Together* and

- 75% attend all sessions,
- 50% demonstrate improved knowledge of the relationship of diet to health-related illness, and
- 50% report decreases of stress and symptoms of depression due to decreased feelings of loneliness, isolation, and anxiety.

3. If funding is not available at the requested amount, what is the minimum Human Services?

We are very sensitive to the City’s budget challenges for FY2026 and have developed our funding request of \$9,500 with those challenges in mind. If funding the full amount is not possible, we respectfully request an award of \$8,500, \$500 more than awarded for 2025.

IMPACT AND COST EFFECTIVENESS

1. Programs can provide value by deeply impacting the lives of a few, with effects that may ripple through generations, or by providing smaller but meaningful impact to a larger group. Describe in detail the impact this program will have on the identified need and on San Marcos residents.

LifeLong Learning is a hybrid program as we offer free courses to all San Marcos-area adults as well as to targeted low-income community members of SMHA communities. Our classes and presentation series at the San Marcos Library allow anyone—including the homeless—to attend, engage, and meet others by simply walking into the room. The limited number of LifeLong Learning courses and tours that carry a fee focus on expanding participants’ deeper knowledge and engagement with others in a variety of content areas.

We know we make a difference in people’s lives as they refer friends to LLL-smtx offerings, ask to present a lecture or course, recommend topics of interest, and keep coming back for more. An October 2024 Survey of 489 participants (18% response rate) indicated that 63% rated as “excellent” the average quality of LLL-smtx sessions.

The following are illustrative of the feedback received from LifeLong Learning participants:

- *Becky’s class was especially important to me this year, not only because it was so good, but also because it very powerfully reminded me that beautiful and wonderful things are associated with my state, where I was born and have lived all my life. How I have needed that reminder this year.* ~ Johnathan Grant 2021
- *Thank you for creating LLL. It has filled a gap in San Marcos’ culture, bringing connection, discourse, learning and light to our community, soldiering on through thick and thin.* ~ Susan Shield Polk, 2024
- *I moved here in 2020 without knowing anyone. Without LLL programs I would not be enjoying so many wonderful opportunities and people. It made all the difference in the quality of my life.* ~ Bernadette Brown, 2024

2. Briefly describe other funding sources, volunteers, or in-kind donations that will be used with this program.

a. Other Funding Sources

- Annual Membership fee (\$100.00) will be implemented in 2026 – those who are not members will be welcome to participate in LifeLong Learning events; however, special events will target members.
- An evolving “partnership” with Texas State university is occurring! Set for fall 2025, is a three-month long community outreach program focused on Artificial Intelligence and

conducted through the office of Dr. Kimberly Conner, VP for Information Technology. The University has made available their grant-writing team to seek grants for this program as well as future ventures.

- Lions' Club Grant (requested \$2,500)
- Fundraisers at Jason's Deli and during courses delivered with Texas State
- Some course fees will increase; however, free courses and events will continue to be a staple of LifeLong Learning offerings.
- Donations will be more broadly and diligently sought
- Pursue fee-based partnerships with area senior communities to deliver programming on-site.

b. Volunteers

All members of the Advisory Committee, except the "next Director" and ≈80% of all presenters and instructors do so without pay.

c. In-kind Donations

Courses offered at the San Marcos Public Library are always free. The library does not charge LLL-smtx for the use of its spaces and library staff provide set-up and technology support. Further, the director provides support for LifeLong Learning's operations at her home; while this qualifies as "an office" under IRS rules, no such claim has been filed for tax purposes.

3. How many total annual unduplicated direct clients is this program expected to serve?

Approximately 550 direct participants.

4. What percentage will be San Marcos residents?

Approximately 90%

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

1. What actions do Board members take to support the programs of the agency?

Two members teach courses; all attend various courses and events; one member maintains the website, emails our schedules, and prepares public-facing communications; and the majority donate money.

2. Briefly describe the number and role of volunteers in the program or agency's operation.

Beyond the volunteers described in item #1 above, 80% of our facilitators, instructors, and presenters are volunteers. While LLL-smtx offers honoraria to these volunteers, most are happy to invest their time and share their expertise without payment.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

1. How long has this program served San Marcos residents?

11+ years

2. Does the agency have an office in San Marcos?

The home of the director is "the office for LLL"

3. Describe how this funding will create an increase in services or an increase in the number of people served.

Having a part-time paid director will allow for an increased focus, new energy, and fresh ideas that will result in continued growth and sustainability. This will include more personal outreach to senior communities and other organized community groups as well as pursuit of additional funding sources.

RISK

1. How many years of experience does the agency have in implementing a program of this size and complexity?

The current director has 27 years of experience in leadership roles, including 11 years as founder and director of LifeLong Learning. Dr. Reese is a former Superintendent of Schools in Texas and retired Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction...the largest department at Texas State University.

The current assistant director/transitioning director played a prominent policymaking role in the Texas Senate and served as director of policy and planning during the creation and implementation of a new state agency. She also has experience in grant seeking and program development and execution.

2. What percentage of the program's funding is non-City?

As of this application, ~68% of the LifeLong Learning budget is from non-City funds.

III. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

1. All Human Services Grant funding will be spent on San Marcos residents, except for school-based programs, in which case it may be spent within the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District boundary.
2. Funding requested is not more than 50% of the total funding for the agency.
3. Funding will not be used to fund more than 20% of full time position.
4. Agency has been in existence for at least 2 years.

SUBMITTED AND APPROVED BY:

Signature: *Marianne Reese* Date July 20, 2025

Printed Name: Dr. Marianne Reese

Title: Founder and Director

BUDGETS

LifeLong Learning Organization of San Marcos TX Organization Budget, 2025 (Jan-Dec)

<u>Estimated Revenue</u>			
Grants			
San Marcos Human Services	\$ 8,000		
San Marcos Lions Club	\$ 2,000		
Grant Funds	\$ 10,000		
Courses/Events Fees	\$ 4,200		
Donations	\$ 1,800		
Total Revenue	\$ 26,000		
			CoSM HS
	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Funded</u>
<u>Estimated Expenses</u>			
Personnel			
Assistant Director Stipend (\$500/mo)	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,000
Nutrionist Honoraria/Healthier Together (\$600/course)	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 900
Instuctor Honoraria/Courses and Events	\$ 4,625	\$ 4,625	\$ 1,600
Content Provider Fees (e.g., museums, education consortia)	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Technology Support			
Microsoft Office (80%)	\$ 84	\$ 84	\$ 84
Website Platform and Domain Name (Wix)	\$ 387	\$ 387	\$ 387
Email Platform (Mailchimp)	\$ 164	\$ 164	\$ 164
Online Course Platform (Zoom)	\$ 336	\$ 336	\$ 336
Professional Services -- Logo	\$ 225	\$ 225	
Supplies & Equipment			
Courses & Events	\$ 2,365	\$ 2,365	\$ 550
Office Supplies	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 879
Participant Incentives -- Healthier Together completion	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	
Refreshments	\$ 280	\$ 280	
Copyright Licenses	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 100
Reserve Fund	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
Total Expenses	\$ 25,316	\$ 25,316	\$ 8,000

LifeLong Learning Organization of San Marcos TX
Estimated Organization Budget, 2026 (Jan-Dec)

<u>Estimated Revenue</u>		
Grants		
San Marcos Human Services	\$ 9,500	
San Marcos Lions Club	\$ 2,500	
Sub Award with Texas State	\$ 5,000	
Annual Memberships (\$100/person)	\$ 4,500	
Courses/Events Fees	\$ 4,000	
Fundraisers	\$ 2,000	
Donations	\$ 2,000	
Total Revenue	\$ 29,500	
	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Program</u>
<u>Estimated Expenses</u>		
Personnel		
Assistant Director Stipend (\$1000/mo)	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
Nutrionist Honoraria/Healthier Together (\$800/course)	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600
Instuctor Honoraria/Courses and Events	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Content Provider Fees (e.g., museums, education consortia)	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Technology Support		
Microsoft Office (80%)	\$ 119	\$ 119
Website Platform and Domain Name (Wix)	\$ 368	\$ 368
Payment Processing Fees (Wix)	\$ 250	\$ 250
Email Platform (Mailchimp)	\$ 156	\$ 156
Online Course Platform (Zoom)	\$ 320	\$ 320
Supplies & Equipment		
Courses & Events	\$ 250	\$ 250
Office Supplies	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
Healthier Together Participants	\$ 250	\$ 250
Refreshments		
Courses & Events	\$ 650	\$ 650
Copyright Licenses	\$ 300	\$ 300
Reserve Fund	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Total Expenses	\$ 26,513	\$ 26,513

LifeLong Learning Organization of San Marcos TX
Proposed Use of HSAB Funding, FY2025 (Jan-Dec)

	<u>Request</u>
<u>Estimated Expenses</u>	
Personnel	
Assistant Director Stipend (\$1000/mo)	\$ 8,000
Nutrionist Honoraria/Healthier Together (\$800/course)	
Instuctor Honoraria/Courses and Events	
Content Provider Fees (e.g., museums, education consortia)	\$ 400
Technology Support	
Microsoft Office (80%)	
Website Platform and Domain Name (Wix)	\$ 150
Payment Processing Fees (Wix)	
Email Platform (Mailchimp)	
Online Course Platform (Zoom)	\$ 150
Supplies & Equipment	
Courses & Events	
Office Supplies	\$ 700
Healthier Together Participants	
Refreshments	
Courses & Events	
Copyright Licenses	\$ 100
Reserve Fund	
Total Expenses	\$ 9,500

BOARD OF DIRECTORS INFORMATION

Roster

Director: Marianne Reese, PhD, San Marcos
Associate Director: Becky D. Reese, MA, San Marcos
Assistant Director: Stephanie Korcheck, MPubAff, San Marcos
Secretary: Sue Beebe, MA, San Marcos
Treasurer: Wayne A. Schurter, EdD, San Marcos
Jane Hughson, San Marcos
Patsy Pohl, San Marcos

FY2025 Meeting Attendance

Jan. 17 – All Present
July 18 – All Present

Membership Criteria

Five of the seven members have served on the Advisory Board since its formation in 2017 when LifeLong Learning of San Marcos gained nonprofit status. They were asked by the Director to serve due to their expertise and participation both as participants and instructors from 2014 to 2017, as well as their dedication to the mission of LLL-smtx.

Two members were selected by the Council to fill a position due to the death of Cathy Supple, an original Council member, and the resignation of another, Patty Margerison.

During the transition in 2026 to a new Director, new Advisory Board members will be identified with a focus on diversity.

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

IRS Form 990

Because LifeLong Learning has revenue below \$50,000, it is exempt from completing the full Form 990; instead, it submits a postcard [Form 990-N (e-Postcard)] each year affirming revenue below \$50,000.

The documentation below confirms that LifeLong Learning is current on its required filings.

THANK YOU FOR FILING WITH SIMPLE 990. —

Your payment of \$50.00 has been processed.

Form 990 and 990-EZ returns undergo a quick technical review by our team. Our team will process your return as soon as this is complete and email you regarding the results.

Confirmation: #SIMP990D5PBDAQSKUICB6KMRIREWTR
September 2, 2024

E-filed 2023 Form 990-N

LIFELONG LEARNING ORGANIZATION OF SAN MARCOS TEXAS: 82-3006115	\$50.00 USD
Total	\$50.00 USD

Non-Discrimination Policy

LifeLong Learning Organization of San Marcos Texas is an equal opportunity organization and will not allow discrimination based upon age, ethnicity, ancestry, gender, national origin, disability, race, size, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, or any other status prohibited by applicable law.

Courses and Events Policies and Procedures

Not available

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Sue Beebe

\Advisory Council Member and Participant

Kim Morgan-Benson

Librarian, Adult Programming and Outreach

San Marcos Public Library

Gary S. Pack

Participant

[REDACTED]
San Marcos, TX 78666
July 3, 2025

San Marcos Human Services Advisory Board
City of San Marcos
San Marcos, TX 78666

Dear Board Members:

San Marcos has a long, proud heritage of educational opportunity. Landmarks have included the first school in a log cabin (1846); the first public school for Black children (1877); the first classes offered by Southwest Texas State Normal School (1903); a city-supported public library (1964); and the first LifeLong Learning (LLL) classes for San Marcos adult learners (2014).

I have enthusiastically participated in LLL classes and activities since its beginning. Over the past eleven years, I have had the privilege of learning from renowned experts in such disparate fields as art history and appreciation, Texas literature, genealogy, communication, watercolor painting, and music history. I have also enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones among a diverse and ever-expanding cohort of instructors and fellow students.

In addition to being an actively engaged student, I have made modest monetary donations to the program. And I have served as the secretary of the LLL Advisory Council since it was formed in 2017.

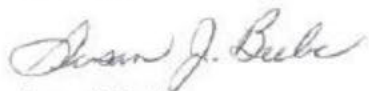
In these multiple roles, I have observed first-hand the remarkable hands-on leadership of founding Director Marianne Reese as she has planned and scheduled courses, recruited instructors, written grants, spoken to local organizations, moved courses online during the Covid pandemic, and developed an ongoing monthly program for KZSM radio.

In 2024, Marianne announced that she would begin to transition from LLL leadership. Out of respect and gratitude for her work, and my own commitment to the program, I agreed at that time to chair a planning committee to explore a course for the future of LLL.

The planning committee's detailed review and discussions over several months led us to conclude that an all-volunteer leadership model is no longer viable. The growth and continued success of LLL will require paid support personnel, which in turn will necessitate the financial support of multiple dedicated interested parties, including the City of San Marcos.

A Human Services grant will provide much-needed partial funding for the leaders needed to move LLL into a second decade that builds on a legacy of educational opportunities for San Marcos-area adults.

Sincerely,



Susan J. Beebe
Charter member and Secretary, LifeLong Learning-San Marcos Advisory Council

Kim Morgan-Benson
Librarian, Adult Programming and Outreach
San Marcos Public Library
625 E Hopkins
San Marcos, Texas 78666

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

July 1, 2025

Re: Letter of Support for LifeLong Learning

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for LifeLong Learning as they seek funding through your grant program. LifeLong Learning plays an important role in providing educational classes for adults in San Marcos and has been a trusted library partner since its inception over ten years ago.

The adult learning classes offered by LifeLong Learning provide adult learning opportunities at the library. Past classes have covered diverse topics, such as human trafficking, conflict resolution, healthy habits, the history of the El Camino Real, music composition theory, deep dives into art history and how to look at art and most recently, a philosophy series. Their programs are accessible, diverse and free at the library.

Your investment in LifeLong Learning will directly support the development of a more educated and empowered community. With additional funding, they will be able to attract a director that will run the program with as much dedication as the current founder and director of LifeLong Learning.

I have personally observed the dedication and professionalism of the director of LifeLong Learning, Marianne Reese, and the profound impact her work has on library programming and all the adults who benefit from those programs.

I wholeheartedly endorse LifeLong Learning's grant application and urge you to consider them for funding. Their work aligns closely with your mission to support community development and educational advancement.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Kim Morgan-Benson

Gary S. Pack

San Marcos, TX 78666

7.8.2025

San Marcos Human Services Advisory Board
San Marcos City Hall
630 E. Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Advisory Board Members:

I would like to ask for your support concerning the application of a San Marcos Human Services grant proposal on behalf of the LifeLong Learning Organization of San Marcos, TX (LLL).

The LLL seeks to engage senior citizens in continuing education courses that are engaging and relevant for free or minimal cost. The courses include a wide range of disciplines that appeal to people that may want to learn something about a subject that is different from their career endeavors. The courses are short in term to provide snapshots of subjects that may entice further explorations for understanding. The courses are taught by dedicated retired educators who for the most part teach for the love of learning.

I have personally taken approximately twenty of these courses over ten years. My educational forays include Art History, Spanish, Physics, Chemistry, various Law topics, tracing personal heritages, the history of Greek theater, and the study of various novels. These courses were engaging and give me resources to see the world in different perspectives.

This organization has been guided by the capable hands of Dr. Marianne Reese since its inception. It has been a true labor of love for her to grow the course selections over the years since she has performed this task with no compensation from the organization. With her pending "second retirement", LLL will need someone to take the helm and our chances of finding someone to take on the job gratis are virtually nil. We would very much like for this organization to continue to offer the opportunities we currently enjoy.

Once more, I humbly ask for your support of this LifeLong Learning Organization grant application. Thank you for your indulgence.

Respectfully,
Gary S. Pack