# FY 2027 Application
# City of San Marcos Human Services Grant

## I. SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Applicant Organization:** LifeLong Learning Organization of San Marcos, Texas

**Contact Name, Title:** Dr. Marianne Reese, Founder and Director **Telephone:** [redacted]

**Contact E-Mail Address:** lifelonglearningsm@gmail.com **Website:** www.LLLsanmarcos.org

**Mailing Address:** [redacted], San Marcos, TX 78666

**San Marcos Service Address for this Program:** [redacted], San Marcos, TX 78666

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

**Program Name:** LifeLong Learning Courses and Events

**Amount of Funds Requested:** $11,000

**What percentage of the cost of this program is requested as funding through this application?** 36%

## 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 12 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 the San Marcos Public Library, the San Marcos Activity Center, and via Zoom by community members and Texas State professors, staff, and retirees who have rich knowledge of their subject areas and are excited to share that knowledge. Course content over the years has included the arts (e.g., art history, drawing, quilting, 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, easy Tai Chi, ping-pong), speaking Spanish, philosophy, genealogy, artificial intelligence, current affairs (e.g., the U.S. Supreme Court), challenges facing America (e.g., health, education, and income disparities, racism), Hispanic heritage, slavery in early Texas,

sex trafficking, history of baseball, bipartisan discussions of election issues, ethics, and book clubs (mystery, science fiction, banned books, 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. One to two hour Zoom sessions are delivered by local presenters as well as 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, Banned Books, and The Wittliff Book+ Club, which links archival materials with authors and their works. A new club featuring American Classics starts in March 2026.
- 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, cults, Texas during the Dust Bowl, Texas Silver Haired Legislature, and a Photo African Safari.

**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 collected from 2015-2025 provides a snapshot of LLL-smtx participants:

- over 24,700 (duplicated) individuals have participated in courses and events
- ≈165 individuals have served as instructors and presenters
- ≈95% of participants live in San Marcos; the remaining 5% live in Austin, Buda, Kyle, Canyon Lake, Lockhart, Martindale, New Braunfels, Spring Lake, and Wimberley as well as California, Florida, Georgia, Maine, and Massachusetts
- ≈90% of participants are women
- almost all participants are over the age of 60

**COMMUNITY NEED AND JUSTIFICATION**

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

Since its inception, LifeLong Learning has targeted the 60+ population; indeed, until last year, our mission statement referenced serving "San Marcos-area older adults."

There are limited education-focused programs for seniors, and a core part of our programming and scheduling will continue to be mindful of this growing population. 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. Further, 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 2025, we removed "older adults" from our mission statement to reflect our commitment to expand our programming – both available content and scheduling – to serve all adults living in San Marcos. We believe our courses are of interest to adults of all ages and are working to locate additional venues to expand our schedule of courses into the early evening hours. We also are exploring ways to directly serve communities of color. In developing courses, we are now intentional in discussing the types of content and schedule that men, younger adults, and people of color will find interesting and valuable.

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" among all U.S. adults, not just seniors.

   However, seniors are especially vulnerable to loneliness and isolation. A 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 previous 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… and we intend to expand Zoom offerings in the coming years as a convenient way for adults under 60 years of age to participate.

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 expand the frequency and variety of our offerings in direct response to the needs and interests of seniors as well as younger adults.

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, is a priority during 2026 and 2027 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. Since 2019, Assistant Director Stephanie Korcheck has been responsible for the website, weekly emails, and other communications products; she also has developed and delivered courses.

   Dr. Reese will continue as LifeLong Learning's leader – indeed, she is the heart and soul of LifeLong Learning – and assist with course development; however, the day-to-day operations will increasingly transition to Ms. Korcheck. Previous funding from the Human Services Advisory Board has helped support a modest stipend for the assistant director and we request funds to continue that support.

   At the core of our mission is keeping course fees low or free. A significant obstacle to scheduling more in-person courses is the limited availability of rooms at the Library and Activity Center that can be scheduled at the same time over several weeks. Pursuant to state law, all courses and events at the Library are free. Courses for which the instructor requests an honorarium are delivered at the Activity Center. The Activity Center retains 20% of the course fees collected, LifeLong Learning takes 5-10%, and the remainder goes to the instructor. If necessary, funds from LifeLong Learning make up the difference between the fees collected and the instructors' honoraria.

   As we investigate other possible locations, it is clear that room rental fees will drive up the costs of delivering our courses. Therefore, a portion of our funding request seeks support to pay the venue rental fees so course fees can remain as low as possible.

   Finally, though most of our presenters do not request an honorarium, we do offer courses led by people for whom this is their livelihood (e.g., Genealogy, Spanish, Tai Chi). Again, to keep our course fees as low as possible, we seek support for when fees are not sufficient to cover course honoraria.

   To support our ambitions to grow LifeLong Learning, significantly increasing revenue is a top priority while maintaining the quality and expanding the number of offerings. The following actions have been taken or are being planned to increase LifeLong Learning funding:
   - a very successful Zoom artificial intelligence series model used in the Fall of 2025 that generated $3,300 in revenue will be replicated for other content areas; a

course fee was charged, and session videos were made available to 70 registrants to view at their convenience
- fundraisers are held at Jason's Deli, the Wash Tub, and other local businesses
- membership fees and course sponsorship opportunities will be implemented in 2026
- donations are actively sought at LifeLong Learning events

As LifeLong Learning works to bolster its revenue, 2027FY Human Services funding will be critical to helping us navigate a successful transition while maintaining the integrity of our programming. Specifically, the requested $11,000 funding will be allocated as follows:

- Assistant Director Stipend – $8,000.00
  Partial support for the assistant director's $1,500/month stipend for day-to-day administration of organization, to include identifying and scheduling learning opportunities, fundraising, website maintenance, and email/communications
- Venue Rental Fees – $1,000
- Instructor Honoraria – $2,000

If we receive funding for the 2027FY, we are aware of the four-month overlap with the current 2026CY grant period. To ensure compliance with the expenditure of funds, we will work with city staff to confirm our reimbursement requests for those overlapping months are accurate and conform to all contractual requirements.

2. **What specific, measurable outcomes or results do you hope to achieve with this program?**
   - 10% increase in number of unduplicated participants compared to 2026
   - 15% of unduplicated participants are under the age of 60
   - 10% increase in unduplicated number of men participating
   - Minimum of 80% of participants rate the overall quality of courses and events as "excellent"

3. **If funding is not available at the requested amount, what is the minimum Human Services Grant funding needed to be able to run this program?**
   We are very sensitive to the City's budget challenges for FY2027 and have developed our funding request of $11,000 with those challenges in mind. If funding the full amount is not possible, we respectfully request an award of $9,500, the same amount awarded for CY2026.

**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 and low cost courses to all San Marcos-area adults. 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 82% rated as "excellent" the average quality of LLL-smtx sessions.

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

- *At 97, I could just sit back and watch the world go by, but I found an outlet for my love for learning! LifeLong Learning has given me many opportunities to quell my learning zest. I've appreciated knowing how beer is brewed, what a safari entails, viewing the inside of the Twin Towers Memorial, and even navigating with AI! LLL allows me to get out and about and realize that you're never too old to learn!* ~Marilyn Gaddis, 2027
- *As a presenter and a member of the Texas State University community, I've seen firsthand how Lifelong Learning - San Marcos transforms curiosity into confidence. My workshops on mobile photography and AI aren't just about technology; they are about providing the tools needed to remain independent, creative, and connected in a rapidly changing world. This organization is a vital bridge that ensures no one in our community is left behind by the pace of modern innovation.* ~ Kevin Huffaker, Director of IT Customer Engagement, Texas State University, 2027
- *We have been enthusiastic participants in many LifeLong Learning classes since the organization began. We have learned about computers, theater, chemistry, art, and more through classes held in an assortment of San Marcos locations. We have learned a great deal and will continue to enjoy learning through this organization. We believe LifeLong Learning has added much to the citizens of San Marcos and we will continue to support their efforts.* ~Judy and Brian Row, 2027

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

**a. Other Funding Sources**

- Course and Event Fees
- Lions' Club grant
- Fundraisers at Jason's Deli and the Wash Tub
- Annual Membership Fee ($75 or $100) will be implemented in 2026 – those who are not members will be welcome to participate in LifeLong Learning events; however, special events will be available to members
- Course sponsorships will be implemented in 2026
- Donations

**b. Volunteers**

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

**c. In-kind Donations**

Courses offered at the San Marcos Public Library must, per state law, be 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 575

   **What percentage will be San Marcos residents?**
   Approximately 95%

4. **Please list the agencies with which you partner to provide this program's services.**
   LifeLong Learning forms mutually beneficial partnerships with local nonprofits and other entities 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, Wineaux, Texas State International Piano Festival, Aging Forward Central Texas, and Texas State University's Wittliff Collections and Information Technology department.

**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; four assist with course development; one member maintains the website, emails our schedules, and prepares public-facing communications; 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 all course instructors, 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?**
   12+ years

2. **In what ways does your agency actively conduct outreach to engage San Marcos residents in its programs and services?**
   - A weekly email highlighting upcoming courses and events is sent to our database of almost 500 individuals
   - The San Marcos Daily Record regularly features our courses in its Community Calendar and in full-length articles
   - Presentations to community service organizations (e.g., Rotary, Lion's Club), senior living communities, and other local groups
   - Advisory Council members regularly discuss LifeLong Learning in their community circles, steering people to our website and adding them to our database

3. **How will San Marcos residents access those services?**
   - Registration for courses held and Parks and Rec sites is accessed through a link to the registration page on our course descriptions
   - Registration requests for other courses are submitted via LifeLong Learning's email account; course fees are paid via check

- Beginning this summer, except for courses at Parks and Rec sites, registration and payment will be made through a new web platform, greatly enhancing convenience for our participants
- Because we never want a course fee to be an obstacle to participation, LifeLong Learning provides scholarships to anyone needing a little help

**RISK**

1. **How many years of experience does the agency have in implementing a program of this size and complexity?**
   The current director has 28 years of experience in leadership roles, including 12 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 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. Stephanie Korcheck also has extensive experience in grant seeking and program development and execution.

2. **What percentage of the program's funding is non-City?**
   With this application, ≈64% of the LifeLong Learning budget would be 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: March 1, 2026
Printed Name: Dr. Marianne Reese
Title: Founder and Director

## BUDGETS

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Estimated Revenue | | |
| Grants | | |
| San Marcos Human Services | $ 9,500 | |
| San Marcos Lions Club | $ 2,500 | |
| Other | $ 3,000 | |
| Courses/Events Fees | $ 5,000 | |
| Course Sponsorships | $ 1,500 | |
| Fundraisers | $ 1,000 | |
| Donations | $ 2,000 | |
| Reserve Fund | $ 3,500 | |
| **Total Revenue** | **$ 28,000** | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | Organization | Program |
| Estimated Expenses | | |
| Personnel | | |
| Assistant Director Stipend ($1000/mo; $1500 starting 9/26) | $ 14,000 | $ 14,000 |
| Dir. And Asst. Dir. Course Registration Fees | $ 1,000 | $ 1,000 |
| Instuctor Honoraria | $ 4,500 | $ 4,500 |
| Content Provider Fees (e.g., museums, education consortia ) | $ 1,000 | $ 1,000 |
| Venue Rental Fees | $ 1,000 | $ 1,000 |
| Scholarships | $ 500 | $ 500 |
| Technology Support | | |
| Microsoft Office (Dir. & Asst. Dir. 80%) | $ 160 | $ 160 |
| Website Platform and Domain Name (Wix) | $ 368 | $ 368 |
| Email Platform (Mailchimp) | $ 156 | $ 156 |
| Online Course Platform (Zoom) | $ 340 | $ 340 |
| Supplies & Equipment | | |
| Courses & Events | $ 550 | $ 550 |
| Office Supplies | $ 1,250 | $ 1,250 |
| Refreshments | | |
| Courses & Events | $ 650 | $ 650 |
| **Total Expenses** | **$ 25,474** | **$ 25,474** |

LifeLong Learning Organization of San Marcos TX
Estimated Organization Budget, 2027FY (Sept-Aug)
with Requested Funding

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Estimated Revenue | | | |
| Grants | | | |
| San Marcos Human Services | $ 11,000 | | |
| San Marcos Lions Club | $ 3,000 | | |
| Other | $ 3,000 | | |
| Courses/Events Fees | $ 6,000 | | |
| Course Sponsorships | $ 2,500 | | |
| Fundraisers | $ 1,000 | | |
| Donations | $ 3,000 | | |
| Reserve Fund | $ 3,500 | $ 3,500 | |
| **Total Revenue** | **$ 33,000** | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | Organization | Program | Request |
| Estimated Expenses | | | |
| Personnel | | | |
| Assistant Director Stipend ($1500/mo) | $ 18,000 | $ 18,000 | $ 8,000 |
| Dir. and Asst. Dir. Course Registration Fees | $ 1,000 | $ 1,000 | |
| Instuctor Honoraria | $ 4,500 | $ 4,500 | $ 2,000 |
| Content Provider Fees (e.g., museums, education consort | $ 1,000 | $ 1,000 | |
| Venue Rental Fees | $ 2,000 | $ 2,000 | $ 1,000 |
| Scholarships | $ 500 | $ 500 | |
| Technology Support | | | |
| Microsoft Office (Dir. & Asst. Dir. 80%) | $ 160 | $ 160 | |
| Website Platform and Domain Name (Wix) | $ 368 | $ 368 | |
| Email Platform (Mailchimp) | $ 156 | $ 156 | |
| Online Course Platform (Zoom) | $ 340 | $ 340 | |
| Supplies & Equipment | | | |
| Courses & Events | $ 550 | $ 550 | |
| Office Supplies | $ 1,500 | $ 1,500 | |
| Refreshments | | | |
| Courses & Events | $ 650 | $ 650 | |
| | | | |
| **Total Expenses** | **$ 30,724** | **$ 30,724** | **$ 11,000** |

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS INFORMATION

Roster
Director: Marianne Reese, San Marcos
Associate Director: Becky Duval Reese, San Marcos
Assistant Director: Stephanie Korcheck, San Marcos
Jane Hughson, San Marcos
Marian Stasney, San Marcos
Robert Wallis, San Marcos

FY2026 Meeting Attendance
December 15 – All Present
January 21 – All Present

Membership Criteria
In December 2025, LifeLong Learning saw three Advisory Council Members step down after serving since the organization's formation in 2017.

Marian and Bob accepted invitations to join the Advisory Council and have brought new energy and enthusiasm to LifeLong Learning's work. They were asked by the Assistant Director to serve due to their ongoing participation in courses, their interest in supporting the expansion of offerings, and their dedication to the mission of LLL-smtx.

## 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.

IRS

Manage Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

Home | Security Profile | Logout

| EIN | Organization Name | Tax Year | End Date | Created On | Status | Submission ID | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 82-3006115 | LIFELONG LEARNING ORGANIZATION OF SAN MARCOS TEXAS | 2024 | 08-31-2025 | 09-10-2025 | Accepted | 10065520252539153457 | |

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CREATE NEW FILING

### 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 applicable

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Dr. Kimberly Conner
Presenter
Digital Strategy Lead for Information Technology
Texas State University

Marian Stasney
Participant and Advisory Council Member

Ron Stockdreher
Presenter and Participant
Lecturer, Department of Philosophy
Texas State University

Robert Wallis, M.D.
Participant and Advisory Council Member

February 23, 2027

Dear Members of the City of San Marcos Human Services Advisory Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for LifeLong Learning's application for continued funding. I had the privilege of serving as a guest speaker for the Fall 2025 ***AI & You*** series, and I witnessed firsthand the meaningful impact this program has on the San Marcos community.

The ***AI & You*** series was well attended and demonstrated a clear community need for accessible, high-quality educational opportunities. Participants represented a diverse cross-section of San Marcos residents—experienced adults seeking to stay current, professionals exploring workplace applications, students curious about the future of work, and individuals hoping to build foundational digital skills. Their engagement reaffirmed the vital role of LifeLong Learning in community education and inclusion.

As a guest presenter, I was particularly impressed by how thoughtfully LifeLong Learning created an environment where participants felt comfortable asking questions, experimenting with AI tools, and discussing the real-world implications of technology in their daily lives. The program balanced practical demonstrations, open dialogue, and approachable instruction, making complex subjects both understandable and empowering.

Equally important is the workshop model LifeLong Learning has developed. The structure used for the AI series is intentionally replicable and adaptable, offering a strong framework that can be applied to future topics as community needs evolve. Continued funding from HSAB will allow the organization to build on this momentum, expand into new areas, and continue offering programming that supports residents' knowledge, independence, and confidence in a rapidly changing world. Your committed support will further strengthen the organization's ability to meet community needs and broaden access to lifelong learning opportunities for all San Marcos residents.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing investment in initiatives that uplift and educate the community. It was an honor to contribute as a guest speaker, and I look forward to seeing LifeLong Learning continue its important work with your support.

Dr. Kimberly Conner

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

**Kimberly A. Conner, J.D.**
Digital Strategy Lead
Division of Information Technology
**Texas State University**
[redacted]

Feb. 20, 2026

Human Services Advisory Board
City of San Marcos

Dear Board Members:

It is my pleasure to offer my wholehearted recommendation for the LifeLong Learning - San Marcos organization. As a new member of the Advisory Council, I have had the opportunity to observe firsthand the integrity, vision, and community impact that defines this remarkable organization.

Established in 2014, LifeLong Learning - San Marcos embodies the belief that education is not confined to a classroom or a particular stage of life. It is a lifelong pursuit that enriches individuals and strengthens communities. The organization consistently delivers high quality, accessible learning experiences that invite curiosity, foster connection, and empower participants to expand their understanding of the world around them. Whether through lectures, workshops, or discussion-based courses, the organization cultivates a culture of thoughtful inquiry that is both inspiring and deeply needed in today's world.

I have taken part in a wide variety of LifeLong Learning classes and activities. These include courses such as Beginning Spanish, Introduction to Law, as well as participating in book clubs, Tai Chi sessions, and Philosophy classes. Through each of these experiences, I have consistently found myself impressed by the quality of instruction, the engaging atmosphere, and the thoughtful approach to learning that LifeLong Learning - San Marcos provides.

As a new Advisory Council member, I have been impressed by the professionalism and dedication of the leadership team. Their careful planning, responsiveness to community needs, and passion for lifelong education are evident in every aspect of the program. The team approaches the work with both creativity and rigor, ensuring that each offering is well organized and aligned with the organization's mission.

LifeLong Learning - San Marcos is more than a series of educational programs. It is a catalyst for personal growth, civic engagement, and community connection. I am proud to participate in courses and support its work, and I am confident in its continued ability to enrich the lives of its participants.

Sincerely,

Marian Keith-Stasney
Advisory Council Member
LifeLong Learning

Feb 21, 2027

Dear Human Services Advisory Board Members,

I am writing to enthusiastically support the application of LifeLong Learning - San Marcos for funding during the 2027 Fiscal Year.

I have always valued educational opportunities, but I did not have the time to pursue my many areas of interest until I semi-retired. LifeLong Learning offers a wide array of courses and programs that I greatly appreciate, available at no cost or minimal cost. I regularly review their calendar in search of topics that pique my interest. Most recently, I attended a course on the History of Baseball, a fascinating review and discussion that allowed me to reconnect with my early love of the game. (As a child, I played first base in Little League.)

From another perspective, I lecture in Philosophy at Texas State University and have long believed that the broader community would benefit from an open forum in which individuals can thoughtfully express their views on life, ethics, politics, the environment, and other issues of shared concern. While the university provides such opportunities, it can also present a level of intimidation and financial barriers that may discourage broader participation. This is precisely the distinctive benefit that LifeLong Learning provides.

When I approached the organization about offering a setting for adults to engage in discussions of life and philosophy, they responded with enthusiasm and worked closely with me and my schedule to establish a series of classes in philosophy and ethics – at no cost to the public. These classes have been well attended and, I hope, have offered a space for rigorous yet respectful public dialogue, something that is especially important in our current divisive climate. I am sincerely grateful to LifeLong Learning for providing this opportunity and for serving as a source of intellectual enrichment and community engagement in our busy lives.

I encourage you to continue your support of LifeLong Learning!

Sincerely,

Ron Stockdreher
Lecturer, Department of Philosophy
Texas State University

Feb. 19, 2024

I’m writing to emphasize the value of LifeLong Learning - San Marcos to people in our community.

Since its founding by Marianne Reese in 2014, LifeLong Learning has provided informative, thought provoking, and enjoyable learning and social opportunities. In affiliation with the San Marcos Public Library and San Marcos Parks and Recreation, LifeLong Learning has at low or no cost engaged hundreds of area adults with its many stimulating programs in person and on-line. Over the last several years, I have participated in many outstanding classes as diverse as art history, philosophy, and the history of baseball. I enjoyed the classes for the exceptional quality of the presentation. Each class offered the opportunity to ask questions and discuss fun, stimulating topics.

Recently, I joined LifeLong Learning's Advisory Council. In the coming year, Assistant Director Stephanie Korcheck will assume increasing responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the organization. With the continued guidance of Marianne Reese and support from the Advisory Council, LifeLong Learning's goals are to expand course offerings and other learning experiences, locate additional venues, reach a more diverse audience, and increase revenue to ensure sustainability. I look forward to doing my part to help us achieve these goals.

I respectfully request that you continue to support this valuable community program with grant funds for the 2027FY.

Sincerely,
Robert Wallis, M.D.

# HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD GRANT
# 2025CY PERFORMANCE REPORT

**Agency Name:** LifeLong Learning Organization of San Marcos, Texas
**Program Name:** LifeLong Learning Courses and Events
**Program Year:** 2025
**Reporting Period:** January through December
**Submit report to:** cgriffith@sanmarcostx.gov

**PROGRAM STATUS**

Please provide a written description of actions taken this period and how they helped achieve your program goals.

1. Increase the number of participants
   LifeLong Learning established a strong partnership with technology-related staff at Texas State University and delivered a four-month Artificial Intelligence Series offered in person and via Zoom.
   - Two free in-person sessions were held: 78 people attended the Series launch in August at the San Marcos Public Library and 26 attended the culminating event in December at the San Marcos Activity Center.
   - Five Zoom bi-weekly sessions were held from September through November. Sixty-nine individuals paid $50.00 to participate and LifeLong Learning provided a scholarship to one individual. These 70 individuals were provided links to session recordings and ancillary materials so they could view and review the sessions and materials at their leisure.

   The AI Series was a very successful model – both in terms of content delivery and revenue – and it will be replicated in 2026 in other content areas.

2. Plans to Sustain the LifeLong Learning Organization of San Marcos
   Beginning in 2025 and continuing into 2026, the current Assistant Director is assuming increasing responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the organization. The current Director (and Founder) will assist with the transition and remain active in course development. Two new Advisory Council members who joined in December have brought new energy and ideas to the Council's work. To increase non-course revenue, discussions have begun on structures for membership as well as course and organization sponsorships.

3. Deliver Free Nutrition Classes for Residents of San Marcos Housing Authority sites
   Twelve community members joined the Allen Woods' February course and six in the Springtown Villa community attended in August; attendance varied at each of the four sessions. Overall, we were disappointed in the number of people who registered and attended. Those who did attend were active and attentive, and responses to end-of-course surveys were very positive. With a total cost of approximately $875.00 per course, the per participant cost is simply too high to sustain. We are exploring other venues and delivery mechanisms to provide healthy eating and food preparation information to low-income families.

## PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES

For the program that received HSAB funding, please report either number of unduplicated individuals served or number of unduplicated households served.

Check one: __X__ Unduplicated Individuals _____ Unduplicated Households

| | Jan-Mar | Apr-Jun | Jul-Sep | Oct-Dec | Year Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Served | 115 | 152 | 153 | 127 | 547 |
| San Marcos Residents Served | 109 | 144 | 145 | 116 | 514 |
| % San Marcos Residents | 95% | 95% | 95% | 92% | 94% |

Notes:

- We exceeded our goal of serving 500 unduplicated San Marcos residents.
- Most of our courses are between six to eight sessions per course; therefore, the number of "duplicated beneficiaries" is over 2800.
- Residency status for courses held at the San Marcos Activity Center is obtained from registration information. For courses held at other venues, determining residency is less accurate. A sign-in sheet is placed at the entry, but sometimes participants fail to sign in or include their residency. Whether in person or via Zoom, we can recognize regular participants and endeavor to inquire about residency for new participants. Therefore, the resident counts represent informed estimates.

## PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

For the final report of the year, please provide a bulleted list that briefly summarizes how the HSAB funding was spent.

- Stipend to support increasing workload of Assistant Director; Honoraria for Nutrition course instructor.
- Fees paid to external content providers
- Fees paid to technology providers – website and mass email platforms; Zoom.
- Office supplies, food/spices for Nutrition course, name badges, event supplies

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Certification:

*I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information reported in this Quarterly Performance Report is factual and accurate.*

Marianne Reese
Signature

January 27, 2026
Date

MARIANNE REESE
Printed name

Director LifeLong Learning
Title