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Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

2020 Urban Grant Program

Deadline: 7/1/2020

Earth Island Institute

Diversifying the Outdoors through Outdoor Leadership Trainings for Teachers and Youth Workers

Jump to: [Project Description](#) [Documents Upload](#)

\$ 24,959.50 Requested

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Project Description [top](#)

Applicant Type

1. What type of organization is this?

- Public Agency
- School or School District
- 501(c)3 Nonprofit
- Eligible organization acting as Fiscal Sponsor for another organization

2. Does the application include a fiscal sponsor?

If the project includes a fiscal sponsor, the fiscal sponsor must be the applicant.

- YES

- NO

Overview

3. Which type of grant are you requesting?

- Small (\$10,000 - \$39,999)
- Large (\$40,000 - \$250,000)

4. Grant category (check all that apply)

- Environmental Stewardship and Restoration
- Parks, Trails, and Public Access
- Environmental Education
- Urban Agriculture / Food Systems

5. Type of project (check all that apply)

- Capital improvement (Large projects only)
- Planning
- Program

6. Project Location: Address / Neighborhood

What is the physical location of the project? If there is no physical location, please enter "N/A." If the project will be in multiple locations, please list all. Note: project location(s) must be within they Authority's jurisdiction.

- South Bay Gear Library: 471 Valley Way, Milpitas, CA 95035
- Henry Coe State Park: 9000 E Dunne Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
- Joseph D. Grant County Park: 18405 Mt Hamilton Rd, Mt Hamilton, CA 95140
- Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve: 4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

7. Project Location: Open Space Authority District (check all that apply)

A detailed map of the Authority Districts can be found under the Library tab, or online at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/public-information/board-of-directors.html>.

- Authority District 1
- Authority District 2
- Authority District 3
- Authority District 4
- Authority District 5
- Authority District 6
- Authority District 7

8. Who does the project serve? Please indicate which Open Space Authority Districts are served (check all that apply)

A detailed map of the Authority Districts can be found under the Library tab, or online at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/public-information/board-of-directors.html>.

- Authority District 1
- Authority District 2
- Authority District 3
- Authority District 4
- Authority District 5
- Authority District 6
- Authority District 7

9. Project Abstract

(Brief, 3-4 sentences)

Bay Area Wilderness Training will host 4 train-the-trainer outdoor leadership courses at subsidized rates in the Santa Clara Valley for residents, educators, and youth workers in the region. Courses include two Frontcountry Leadership Trainings, one Wilderness Leadership Training, and one Hiking Leadership Training. Courses reduce barriers to outdoor access, equipping educators and youth workers with skills needed to take youth on fun, educational, safe, and culturally relevant outdoor trips.

Project Planning (20 points)

10. Describe the proposed project.

Funding will support four wilderness training courses in Henry Coe State Park, Joseph D. Grant County Park, and Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve, and BAWT's Milpitas Gear Library, taking place in Authority Districts 1 and 2. Courses range from a one-day Hiking Leadership Training, a 2-day Frontcountry Leadership Training (car camping course), to a 6-day Wilderness Leadership Training (backcountry course), and are specifically designed for Santa Clara Valley teachers, youth workers, and residents who have established relationships with the youth they serve. To create a culture of outdoor education in the Santa Clara Valley region, 50% of enrollment spots will be reserved for Santa Clara Valley residents/educators/youth workers at a subsidized rate of 50% of the original cost. The goal of this program is to create a robust Santa Clara Valley network of outdoor empowered BAWT-trainees who can provide ongoing outdoor experiences for youth.

BAWT's model reduces barriers of access to the outdoors for youth of color and low-income backgrounds by addressing 1) Lack of Experience: Many teachers and youth workers want to bring youth outdoors but lack experience organizing and planning, and are unfamiliar with outdoor curriculum, logistics, equipment, and safety/risk management skills that are essential to successful trips. BAWT addresses this through tailored and culturally relevant curriculum. 2) Access to Gear: Outdoor gear is expensive and comes at a prohibitive cost. Without proper and necessary gear, outdoor trips can be uncomfortable and unsafe. BAWT addresses this through our Gear Libraries located in Milpitas, Oakland, and San Francisco, whereupon completion of a course, trainees gain free or reduced-cost unlimited access to gear rentals. 3) Funding: Outdoor trips require adequate funding. Besides the cost of gear, expenses include food, transportation, campground/camping permits, and park entry fees. These costs add up quickly and perpetuate the exclusion of already marginalized groups in outdoor spaces. BAWT addresses this aspect by providing scholarships to cover course fees, and mini-grants to course participants to offset trip costs. Additionally, the train-the-trainer model we use ensures that trainees will be empowered to be outdoor and environmental educational leaders for their youth and communities for years to come, and will not have to rely on outside organizations to provide such experiences.

BAWT provides educators with resources to lead trips that meet educators' own specific goals. Goals vary for each educator; while some lead trips to meet NGSS standards, some use trips to meet Common Core standards through literacy or math connections, and some use the outdoors as a way to build relationships to strengthen abilities to meet NGSS and Common Core standards in the classroom. While our training courses do not directly teach these standards, we provide resources for activities that meet and enhance academic standards.

11. Describe key project deliverables and estimated completion dates.

Scholarships: We will award 36 Santa Clara Valley educators with scholarships to take a BAWT Outdoor Leadership course at a 50% discount. Through past experience, we have learned that providing scholarships results in high attrition rates, and have had major success with our Summit Scholarship program, which offers a 50% discount for those who apply. The scholarship program, funded by this OSA grant, will apply these learned lessons to serve Santa Clara Valley educators most effectively. We have chosen to provide 36 scholarships to ensure that a minimum of 50% of each Santa Clara Valley course serves local leaders in the

community. 20 scholarships will be available for the two Frontcountry Leadership Trainings (our most popular course,) 6 scholarships available for the Wilderness Leadership Training, and 10 scholarships available for the Hiking Leadership Training. The four trainings will be completed within the grant timeline of one year and the scholarships will be given out during that same time period.

Train 50 new Santa Clara Valley Leaders: As a result of the four trainings that BAWT will conduct in the South Bay, deliverables will consist of training at least 50 new educators, youth workers, and residents. Of these 50 newly trained leaders, 36 will be specifically Santa Clara Valley residents/educators/youth workers and will receive scholarships to take their training at 50% of the cost. We expect educators and youth workers that do not reside in or serve Santa Clara Valley to register and take our courses who may not be eligible for the scholarships, which is why we expect to train a total of 50 new leaders in the region. All four trainings will take place within the program year, the Frontcountry Leadership Trainings will take place in April and September of 2021, Wilderness Leadership Training will take place in April 2021, and the Hiking Leadership Training will take place in May 2021.

Mini-Grants: To encourage and support our newly trained leaders to apply their skills to outdoor trips with youth, we will provide the 36 scholarship recipients with mini-grants. Mini-grants can be used for any expenses related to their youth trips (transportation, food, stipends for chaperones, etc.) These will be reimbursable grants and are based on our existing successful mini-grant program that is available to all trained leaders.

Serve 750 youth through 40 outdoor trips: In 2019, we served 1,033 youth on 43 trips through our South Bay Gear Library. During the time-frame of this grant cycle, we expect to serve a minimum of 750 youth through 40 individual trips. We expect there to be some hesitation by schools and youth organizations to lead large outdoor trips due to the pandemic, which will likely lower our numbers. To address potential trauma and anxiety related to safe group outings, we will provide extra support to our leaders for trip planning, including best practices on safety and distancing protocols according to health guidelines

12. Does this project require permission, permits, or other approvals? If so, please describe the status of these.

Each individual training course will require a permit or campsite reservation issued by the respective park, which BAWT staff and course instructors are responsible for obtaining. After teachers and youth workers complete their trainings and begin organizing and planning their own trips, they will be responsible for securing their own permits and reservations. BAWT conducts Trip Planning sessions throughout the year to assist trip leaders with logistics. Additionally, each training course covers aspects of securing permits and navigating reservation systems.

13. What is the lifetime of this project? If applicable, describe plans for operating and maintaining the project in the future.

The lifetime of this project extends far beyond the 1-year grant period. BAWT has been conducting trainings in the Bay Area since 1999, and in our 20 years of existence have trained over 2,300 teachers and youth workers, have supported over 87,000 youth in experiencing outdoor trips, and have created a network of thousands of schools, organizations, partners, volunteers, and supporters dedicated to creating meaningful access to outdoor experiences for youth of color and low-income youth. Our 20-year track record proves our ability to maintain this program into the future, and we believe that as we continue to grow our network of trained educators and youth workers and instill a culture of outdoor education as essential and enhancing components of school curriculum, we will see a rise in the number of youth workers and educators that seek to receive outdoor leadership training skills. We are prepared to meet that demand and in doing so are always working to update and alter our curriculum to address current trends and needs, replenishing our gear libraries, and growing our community of course instructors.

14. Describe the project's readiness for implementation.

Readiness for implementation is immediate due to established course curriculum, course logistics, and scheduled course dates. Outreach for courses will begin as early as September 2020, prior to the start of the

first course that will take place in April of 2021. To ensure that courses are full, it is essential to conduct outreach to Santa Clara Valley residents, educators, and youth workers upon immediate announcement of the grant award. Outreach includes social media promotion, promotion in monthly newsletters, and specific outreach to partner organizations in Santa Clara Valley. Prior experience has shown that buy-in from leadership and administration of schools and non-profit around creating a culture of outdoor education is stronger when there is a network of empowered outdoor education leaders within the institution. Thus, we intend to direct outreach efforts to BAWT alumni who work and reside in the Santa Clara Valley, and to BAWT 'Super-Users'- trainees who frequently lead trips and extensively use our gear libraries. Often, trained leaders are lone champions for outdoor trips in their institutions, and by asking them to refer their colleagues to our scholarship program, we can deepen existing partnerships, support cultures of outdoor education, and increase capacity for educators. We also aim to foster new partnerships through participation in various Santa Clara Valley educator groups.

Project Budget (15 points)

15. Budget Summary - Grant Request

This is a budget summary only; a detailed Project Budget must be submitted using the Documents Upload tab. Please enter dollar amount. Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL.

10737	Grant request: Personnel
0	Grant request: Contracted Services
4862.5	Grant request: Supplies / Materials
8100	Grant request: Other Direct Costs
1260	Grant request: Indirect Costs
24,959.50	TOTAL

16. Budget Summary - Matching Funds

This is a budget summary only; a detailed Project Budget must be submitted using the Documents Upload tab. Please enter dollar amount. Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL.

33181	Total Matching Funds
33,181.00	TOTAL

17. Budget Narrative

Provide a brief budget narrative to explain the expenses listed in each of the budget categories (e.g. Personnel).

Personnel: Staff involved in this project include BAWT Instructors, Co-Executive Directors, Program Coordinator, and Development Manager. As a small team, BAWT staff wear many hats and will all contribute to the success of this project. Each BAWT course is led by three instructors: a paid lead, paid assistant, and volunteer. All of our instructors are alumni of BAWT courses, and often current educators working with youth in some capacity, which helps ensure the cultural responsiveness of the instruction. Part of the personnel costs include paying lead and assistant instructors for the four courses. Our Program Team, made up of the Executive Director - Programs and Program Coordinator, will manage logistics for courses, curriculum development, instructor support, outreach, Milpitas gear library operations, and anything else related to courses or supporting trained leaders with implementing their outdoor trips. Our Development Team, made up of the Executive Director - Development and Development Manager, will support financial tracking, grant reporting, and outreach for the courses and scholarships through managing our communications channels.

Supplies/Materials: The supplies that will be covered by this funding are directly related to the four courses. Food is a crucial component of each course as it unites people, helps people feel more comfortable, and

models recipes and outdoor cooking techniques that educators can use with youth. It is important for us to provide meals that can accommodate multiple diets, are healthy and nutritious, and model meals that youth are likely to enjoy. Campsite reservations are an additional cost for courses. Finally, it is BAWT tradition to provide graduates of courses BAWT-branded t-shirts to help people feel connected and a part of our organization. Other Supplies for courses, including fuel, firewood, and printing costs will be covered by matching funds.

Other Direct Costs: Travel costs will be covered by matching funds - including reimbursement of mileage for staff traveling to the Milpitas gear library for outreach purposes, and for instructors traveling to course sites. Requested funds will cover 36 scholarships for our Santa Clara Valley leaders: 20 Frontcountry Leadership Scholarships at \$42.50 each, 6 Wilderness Leadership Training Scholarships at \$150 each, and 10 Hiking Leadership Training Scholarships at \$15 each. The 26 recipients of the FLT and WLT scholarships will also receive \$200 mini-grants towards their own youth trips, and recipients of HLT scholarships will receive \$100 mini-grants.

Indirect Costs: Indirect costs include rent for the Milpitas gear library, utilities, phone, and internet bills.

Project Goals (15 points)

18. Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.

Access to the vast amount of open space in the Santa Clara Valley, and the outdoors in general, is not equitable across all groups of people, and certain groups - especially communities of color and low-income communities - face structural and institutional barriers that prohibit representation in outdoor spaces.

BAWT has intentionally designed programs that make the outdoors accessible and engaging to all youth in the Santa Clara Valley, regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and prior familiarity to the outdoors.

As stated in our project description, BAWT's overall organizational goals aim to overcome the following barriers common to participation in outdoor and experiential environmental education: 1) Lack of Experience: Many teachers and youth workers want to bring youth outdoors but lack experience organizing and planning trips, and are unfamiliar with the logistics, curriculum, equipment, and safety and risk management skills that are essential to successful trips. 2) Access to Gear: Outdoor gear is expensive and comes at a prohibitive cost. Without the proper and necessary gear, outdoor trips have the potential for not only being uncomfortable but also unsafe. 3) Funding: Outdoor trips require adequate funding to lead successful trips. Besides the cost of gear, expenses include food, transportation, campground/camping permits, and park entry fees. These costs add up quickly and perpetuate the exclusion of already marginalized groups in outdoor spaces.

Additionally, BAWT programming fosters a culture of outdoor-empowered educators within both school and non-profit institutions in the Santa Clara Valley who are committed to providing quality experiential outdoor and environmental curriculum to their students. Our robust course alumni network supports and reinforces this culture.

19. How does this project serve the community?

These metrics are required for all projects. Project-specific metrics can be added under Question 20 below. Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL that will not be used.

5380	Number of people served
5200	Number of youth served (under 18 years)
15	Number of programs provided
10,595.00	TOTAL

20. In what other ways does the project serve the community? Please list the project-specific goals (both social and environmental).

Please list any additional goals and how they will be measured (e.g. surveys, field measurements, attendance sheets, etc.).

BAWT's project addresses inequities that persist in outdoor spaces, creating access to the outdoors for Santa Clara Valley youth that may not otherwise have such opportunities. We intend to positively impact historically underrepresented Santa Clara Valley authority districts through our programming, resources, and community. BAWT's curriculum teaches aspects of environmental education, Leave No Trace Principles, and the importance of conservation and stewardship.

Project-specific goals:

1: Train 50 new educators/youth workers, with at least 36 serving youth in Santa Clara Valley authority districts. This will be measured by registration rosters and attendance trackers.

2: Lead four courses in Santa Clara Valley: two Frontcountry Leadership Trainings, one Wilderness Leadership Training, and one Hiking Leadership Training.

3: Award 36 scholarships (at 50% of regular course cost) to Santa Clara Valley teachers and youth workers. Eligibility requires that awardee work with youth in Santa Clara Valley and preference will be given to those who serve 80% or more youth of color, or 40% or more free-or-reduced-lunch eligible youth.

4: Award 36 mini-grants to accompany scholarships. Mini-grants must be used within 1 year of taking the course and can be used toward trip-associated expenses.

5: Facilitate 2 Trip Planning sessions specifically for Santa Clara Valley trained leaders.

6: Serve 750 youth and support 40 outdoor trips through the Milpitas Gear Library.

Impact (15 points)**21. Describe the lasting impact of the project.**

Since 1999, BAWT has served over 88,000 youth, trained over 2,300 teachers and youth workers, and has created a vast network of outdoor-empowered leaders equipped with both skills and resources that can be utilized time and time again. It is our unique train-the-trainer approach that enables our programming to have such an effective and lasting impact.

In 2019 alone, BAWT partnered with 241 organizations, including schools, after-school programs, and non-profit organizations to support 408 total trips. The 14 training sessions BAWT led throughout the year trained 132 teachers, youth workers, and adult leaders to take thousands of youth outside. Our partners and the 408 trips that took place with BAWT trainees enabled 10,585 youth to access the outdoors, totaling 17,869 nights spent outdoors.

Additionally, BAWT has become a leader in this arena. In 2007, BAWT helped with the creation of the Camping at the Presidio program (CAP) - an urban campsite for educators with gear and equipment loans on site. BAWT supported CAP in campground design, curriculum development, support, and training. Up until 2019, BAWT counted youth served by CAP in our total program numbers. However, we are pleased to report that CAP is now entirely self-sufficient and no longer receives support, consultation, or training from BAWT - and is why we will no longer count CAP program numbers in BAWT's cumulative yearly totals. We hope that this example of CAP is just one of many other programs that BAWT helps establish.

Community Engagement / Stakeholder Support (10 points)

22. Describe the community support and/or community engagement process.

Please submit letters using the Documents Upload tab.

BAWT's survival depends on collaboration with local partner agencies and community support. In 2019, BAWT partnered with 33 schools and organizations in Santa Clara Valley, and with funding for this program, we hope to diversify and gain more partners in the region.

BAWT's community engagement process is built into our program. Course alumni automatically become part of an extensive community, gaining access to resources, gear libraries, trip planning sessions, support via our Alumni Facebook page and google group, Alumni newsletters, and access to BAWT events. Feedback, suggestions, and criticisms that alumni bring to the attention of BAWT staff and board are taken seriously and are responsible for many positive changes within BAWT programming. We value the opinions of our community tremendously and believe that strengthening our programming comes directly from engaging our participants.

Another aspect of community engagement is our annual Instructor Retreat held in January for course alumni interested in becoming course instructors. The past two retreats have been at Blue Oak Ranch Reserve on Mt. Hamilton in San Jose, and have engaged South Bay alumni. The objectives of the retreat focus on community building, examining and developing culturally responsive course curriculum, and determining ways to deepen community engagement. BAWT's Community Principles - a set of guiding principles on how to treat others in the outdoors - were developed at an Instructor Retreat.

Leadership & Innovation (10 points)

23. Describe how this project employs innovative approaches or encourages collaboration and partnerships.

If there are project partners, please upload partner letters on the Documents Upload tab.

This specific project is centered around collaboration and deepening existing partnerships. Our main approach for this project is to work with existing BAWT-trained leaders in the Santa Clara Valley to refer colleagues, friends, and their networks of the same institutions to take BAWT courses. By providing subsidized training and funding for trips, we remove financial barriers that typically prohibit outdoor experiences for Santa Clara Valley community members. Additionally, because we are targeting leaders at institutions that have some capacity to run outdoor trips already - through their existing trained leader - we hope that youth served by these leaders will receive multiple opportunities to have outdoor experiences at their institutions. We know that one experience is not enough to make a lasting impact, and true equity and access to the outdoors means that students have the opportunity to go outdoors often. We hope that by supporting our partner institutions in strengthening their culture of outdoor education at their institutions, their youth will truly benefit from the many positive aspects of outdoor experiences.

Organizational Capacity (15 points)

24. Briefly describe the organization and its ability to successfully implement this project. This might include successful past projects, key staff qualifications, financial resources, etc.

If the applicant is a Fiscal Sponsor, please describe both the Fiscal Sponsor and the sponsored organization.
Bay Area Wilderness Training was founded in 1999 as a grassroots effort to get youth from the Bay Area into California's wilderness, initially modeled after the very successful Youth Opportunities Program founded in the sixties by the Appalachian Mountain Club. BAWT's mission is to create equitable access to outdoor experiences for youth of color and low-income youth by training teachers and youth workers to lead wilderness-based activities, providing free outdoor equipment loans to classrooms and community organizations, giving financial support, and fostering community collaboration among outdoor educators. We believe that when youth experience the outdoors, they develop a broadened sense of themselves and a deeper connection to the environment.

BAWT began in San Francisco with enough gear to accommodate 50 youth, and in 2007 expanded operations to Oakland, where our largest gear library now accommodates 800 youth at once for year-round outdoor exploration. Since its founding, BAWT has established 2 additional gear libraries in Milpitas and in San Francisco. The Milpitas Gear Library has the capacity to outfit 160 youth, and the San Francisco library the capacity to outfit 100 youth.

One of BAWT's largest initiatives to get youth outside is our Oakland Goes Outdoors (OGO) program - a current partnership with Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), the Oakland Public Education Fund, and the San Francisco Foundation. OGO aims to get every OUSD middle-schooler outside within three years. BAWT is in its second-year of OGO and is on track to train 92 OUSD teachers and support overnight trips for 5,500 youth and support youth 4,800 on day trips.

BAWT is a fiscally sponsored project of Earth Island Institute (EII). Founded by environmentalist David Brower in 1982, EII has been a hub for grassroots campaigns dedicated to conserving, preserving, and restoring the ecosystems on which our civilization depends. EII's Project Support program serves environmental projects, giving crucial assistance to groups and individuals with innovative ideas for promoting ecological sustainability.

Liza Dadiomov and Sierra Lawe guide BAWT as Co-Executive Directors. Liza leads the Program department, and Sierra leads the Development department. Liza has been with BAWT since August 2018, holds a Master's of Environmental Education from Western Washington University, and a certificate in Nonprofit Management from the North Cascades Institute, was previously a Program Manager at Education Outside, and is currently a fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program. Sierra has been with BAWT since May 2019, holds a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Management from the University of La Verne, and was previously the Director of Development at Washington Wild.

BONUS POINTS: Underserved Communities (10 points)

25. Describe how the project addresses open space needs for sensitive populations such as residents of park-poor neighborhoods, underserved or disadvantaged communities, youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, or is located within a Deep Engagement Community (DEC).

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A." A map of the DECs can be found by clicking on "Apply" at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/urban>.

BAWT's project directly addresses open space needs for sensitive populations, specifically residents of park-poor neighborhoods, underserved and disadvantaged communities, and youth. We know that access to the outdoors is not equitable across communities, and our programming aims to lessen these inequities. By providing programming to teachers and youth workers who directly serve youth of color and youth from low-income communities, we reduce the barriers that these youth often face in accessing the outdoors. Without BAWT programming, youth from underserved communities may not otherwise have access to these outdoor experiences. Furthermore, in 2019, 87.94% of youth served through our programs were youth of color, and 82.35% of youth qualified for Free or Reduced Lunch programs.

BONUS POINTS: Community Building (10 points)

26. Describe how this project actively encourages community building by engaging or accommodating local residents in novel and creative ways.

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."

BAWT's project actively encourages community building by engaging and accommodating local Santa Clara Valley residents through the nature of our programming. To run successful programming, BAWT relies on participation from local residents and accommodates them through our scholarship and mini-grant program. Of the 72 course spots that we are offering through this project, 50% of enrollment spots are

reserved for Santa Clara Valley authority district residents or educators at a reduced fee of 50% of the original course cost. Additionally, our targeted and direct outreach to BAWT alumni and BAWT 'Super-Users' who work and reside in the Santa Clara Valley will ensure engagement of, and accommodation to local residents, ultimately contributing to a growing network of outdoor-empowered educators that can support, engage, inspire, and motivate each other.

BONUS POINTS: Climate Resilience (5 points)

27. How does this project enhance and/or raise awareness about climate resilience?

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."

Providing youth with a gateway to the outdoors raises inevitable awareness around the responsibility and urgent need to protect our natural resources and fight for climate resilience. We believe that our programming acts as a springboard for lifelong environmental literacy, stewardship, and ultimately will educate and inspire the next generation of environmental leaders, and, without our programming, this education and inspiration may not be attainable for the youth being served.

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Documents Requested *

[Financial Statement](#)

Required? Attached Documents *

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