

4:13 Strong Request For FY20 Direct Appropriations Funding

1. What services does your organization provide to the residents of Davidson County?

4:13 Strong radically transforms the lives of unemployed and underemployed young men between the ages of 18 and 30 by immersing them in an intensive, six-month residential program. This process provides a lifeline to help them break free from a generational cycle of poverty, crime and dependency. A key component used to break that cycle is providing vocational and life-skills training to move them toward independence and self-sufficiency. This creative curriculum involves developing skills in the following areas: construction, work readiness, financial literacy, spiritual development and stress management. Through this 40-day training, the men of 4:13 Strong will earn three portable certifications that are relevant within the construction industry: NCCER Core, OSHA 10, and Aerial Lift.

2. How many residents are you currently serving and how do they benefit?

In 2018, 4:13 Strong provided workforce certifications to 38 young men. Our first class of 2019 has 16 young men in training. There are three additional classes to be offered this year. Each participant will receive three industry recognized portable construction certifications. In addition to training, all men who complete the 40-Day Challenge are placed with one of 4:13 Strong's Construction Job Partners. All men who receive employment are transported to and from work every day until graduation at the end of the six months. Through the financial literacy training (Dave Ramsey curriculum), each participant develops a budget, opens a checking and savings account, and is monitored by staff to save money for a vehicle.

3. How much funding are you requesting from Metro?

\$27,000.00

4. If funding is awarded, how many additional residents will be served and how will they benefit?

4:13 Strong's goal is to provide certifications for 50 men this year. Each participant will receive certifications, employment, transportation to and from work, and a variety of life/job readiness skills. In 2018, 4:13 Strong participant's average wage was nearly \$14.00 per hour. An employment goal of the program for 2019 is to exceed \$14.00 per hour for participants.

5. In addition to serving more residents, are there other community benefits Metro funding would help you achieve?

Over the past four years, 4:13 Strong has demonstrated that it can break the cycle of poverty, crime and unemployment/underemployment. Even with a low overall unemployment rate in Middle Tennessee, more than 10 percent of the workforce between the ages of 16-24 is unemployed. In addition, there are more than 10,000 disconnected youth in Davidson County. 4:13 Strong has developed a proven program that integrates workforce training, life-skills development, housing, food, transportation and mentoring. When 4:13 Strong participants complete the 40-Day training, they are strategically placed with and fully employed by 4:13 Strong Job Partners. In 2018, the average starting wage for the men of 4:13 Strong was nearly \$14 per hour. With 33 men moving into the work force, that translated to \$915,000 of annual payroll and \$140,000 of annual payroll tax. When including the annual cost of incarceration (estimated at \$40,000), the benefit equation of a successful 4:13 Strong man, referred to us from the Criminal Justice System, is even bigger. On average 40% of our participants are referrals from the Criminal Justice System.

6. How would you use this funding to help create a more equitable Nashville, where all residents have an opportunity to participate in the city's success?

By successfully redirecting a young man from a life of unemployment, dependency and incarceration to a life of meaningful full-time employment, the entire city benefits. Economically, he will no longer be consuming social welfare or generating expense within the criminal justice or correction systems. Instead, he will be making a positive economic impact through the benefit of being gainfully employed. Socially, the men in the 4:13 Strong program are learning to take responsibility for their lives. Each participant is building a strong faith foundation and working to reunite with their children and families. All of Nashville benefits when a man is able to redirect his life from being on the streets to a life of faith, family and full time employment.