

02/08/19

Talia,

I am attaching our request to be included in the FY 2020 direct appropriations. This is the first year that our 32 year old organization is requesting money from Metro. Thank you for your consideration.

Autumn Shackelford  
Executive Director  
Bridgeway Connections, formerly known as Christian Community Outreach, Inc.



Bridgeway Connections, formerly known as Christian Community Outreach, Inc. provides food, clothing and utility assistance to those in need in the 37138 (Old Hickory) zip code. We also partner with diaper connection to provide diaper assistance.

We currently serve 955 individuals and they benefit by having a “one stop shop” for assistance in their neighborhood. By having us nearby, they don’t have to worry about the lack of transportation in our area to try and get to services in the city.

We are asking the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County for \$20,000. In FYE 2018 we assisted 265 people with financial assistance. On average we turn away half of the people that apply for financial assistance each month. We are asking for the amount of money it would take to help an additional 133 people. They would benefit by potentially being able to stay in their homes by keeping their utilities on, making our community more stable.

In addition to helping more people our ultimate goal is to offer our clients financial counseling and other financial services. With this funding, we can leverage existing opportunities within our community or create our own classes to make sure people have the financial education they need in order to become more self sufficient and less reliant on our services in the long term.

Our clients would have an opportunity to participate in the city's success by being able to stay in Davidson County and not having to move to outlying counties. Additionally, taking a bit of financial pressure off, each client will regain a portion of their brain power back. As cited in [A study published in the journal Science called "Poverty Impedes Cognitive Function"](#) researchers examined two different groups in drastically different environments. While other research has linked poverty with other factors that affect performance (malnutrition, stress, etc.); this study suggests poverty itself may also be a cause for diminished cognitive capacity. By trying to help improve cognitive capacity in this way, it should help people have the opportunity to achieve success in Nashville.