



Building Champions for Life™

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February 8, 2019

Ms. Talia Lomax-O'dneal
Director of Finance
Metropolitan Government
700 Second Avenue South, Suite 201
Nashville, TN 37210

Sent Via Email

Re: In Full Motion Request \$350,000 FY-20 Direct Appropriations Funding

Dear Ms. Lomax-O'dneal,

In Full Motion, Inc. ("IFM") is a nonprofit organization established in Nashville, Tennessee in 2005. IFM provides to the residents of Davidson County's low-income youth who live in high crime neighborhoods and/or attend low performance schools with the skills and knowledge to successfully achieve college access and enrollment while moving them toward a successful career and a stable future for generations to come.

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

IFM annually services more than 1000 young people in grades 5-12 who attend 73 schools in Nashville Davidson County. IFM provides college and career readiness to at-risk students, with the primary focus on ACT preparation and testing. With the FY-2019 Direct Appropriation funding of \$250,000, IFM increased its academic support services by 100%, currently providing an additional 253 middle school students, mostly designated as economically disadvantaged, after school and Saturday school college prep classes at Jere Baxter, Haynes, Joelton, Moses McKissack and Knowledge Academies that includes:

- ACT/ACT Aspire/Pre-ACT Testing and ACT test preparation
- Academic tutoring in math, science, reading and English
- Financial Literacy workshops/character building enrichment
- STEM and Wellness programs
- College tours and career readiness workshops

The success of the FY-2019 program can be measured in the phenomenal increase in after school participation that exceeded 100 students as of 12/31/2018 at Moses McKissack and Knowledge Academies and 50% of the participants' attendance exceeds or is on track to exceed 30 programming days!

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

This school year IFM provides 852 middle school and high school students with ACT prep classes, ACT Aspire, academic tutoring by certified teachers, financial literacy, wellness, STEM and enrichment activities at Metropolitan Nashville Public School (“MNPS”) sites, churches, charter schools, colleges and community organizations. The concept of early intervention is served well by the IFM approach as our 15 years of experience provides the impetus to support early efforts for the middle school students and further demonstrates the success in higher ACT scores and the retention of information and instruction. Furthermore, strong ACT scores can be acquired much earlier than the late high school years, thereby leaving the later grades for further maturational and social emotional development where competition with extracurricular activities is not as prominent.

IFM has joined forces with The Starlings Nashville (“Starlings”) and the Metropolitan Parks and Recreation (“Metro Parks”) to provide ACT Prep at the 25 Metro Parks community centers located throughout Nashville and Davidson County and during volleyball exposure camps and combines. The Starlings provides athletic skills training to compete in the sport of volleyball to more than 200 Nashville middle and high school girls with an opportunity to gain scholarship opportunities through volleyball. “Giving Girls A Chance to Fly” is the motto of Starlings Volleyball Clubs, USA—the largest junior volleyball program in the nation. The Starlings currently provide a volleyball league, Prep Like a Champion training clinics, mentoring and wellness activities weekly at the Metro Parks community centers.

3. How much funding are you requesting from Metro? \$350,000

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

IFM currently provides 28 weeks of after school programming and 12 Saturday ACT prep classes at schools and community organizations throughout Nashville. IFM will provide to Nashville families free ACT Preparation classes and college readiness services at the 25 community centers in Davidson County. Metro Parks currently serves over 12,000 youth annually in 25 locations providing positive structured activities while fostering an environment for positive growth at little to no cost to families. The collaboration with Metro Parks, the Starlings and IFM current partners, will increase the number of residents served to more than **13,000** by the end of FY-20. Funding IFM at the 25 community centers will benefit more families by providing structured academic assistance, team competition, and weekly college prep throughout the school year.

Nashville needs programs like the collaboration of IFM, The Starlings and Metro Parks to help reduce the violent crimes committed by and against Nashville teens that are up 16 percent, compared to the same time period in 2017 (WKRN Crime Tracker, May 2018). The types of violent crimes that have increased include forcible rape, which is up 40 percent, robbery up 27 percent, aggravated assault up 6 percent, and sexual assault is up 37 percent. Programs that include athletic and academic exposure for at risk youth are needed for Nashville to develop bonds among at-risk youth in the inner city, encouraging education/leadership and discouraging gang participation. In addition to the after school and Saturday classes, IFM ACT prep will be a part of local summer camps and volleyball, basketball and football events held at the Metro Parks.

The benefit of this early intervention with both academic/ACT prep, enrichment and structured wellness activities will have a positive impact in the number of college focused adolescents choosing post-secondary education to produce career-ready productive citizens. By funding this proposal, all Nashvillians will benefit, especially the at-risk students with little financial resources and no transportation. Nashville will increase the at-risk youth's access to the skills necessary to succeed, provide broader exposure for students to reach individual goals and assist in handling life's many challenges. IFM's partnership with the Starlings and Metro Parks will improve parental involvement and improve student confidence and initiative to compete for college scholarships and future employment.

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

The ACT college access test is required for all Tennessee students prior to graduation. We are extremely proud to report that although funded to provide 250 middle school students with ACT prep, academic tutoring and enrichment, at 12/31/2018, our enrollment has exceeded 500 middle school students!

The requested FY-20 funding of \$350,000, along with \$350,000 committed corporate and foundation grant dollars and \$50,000 of in-kind contributions provided by MNPS, Metro Parks, Tennessee State University and Knowledge Academies of free computer access, and free or discounted facilities for students, athletes, parents and siblings, will positively change the fabric of the traditional middle school population in the high crime, low income neighborhoods. Our local school district will also be supported through raising ACT and standardized test scores, creating and increasing college acceptance and reducing the cost to free, no longer preventing the population from experiencing the reality of college access and success. As a byproduct, literacy and numeracy skills will improve and be strengthened. The after school sessions support the safe, productive and constructive activities of this population during a critical time of their day with a long-term effect.

If funding is awarded, for FY-20, more than 1,000 families will be provided with an alternative to the juvenile crime, gang-violence and children staying home alone in high crime neighborhoods. With IFM's extended-day supplemental academic support, early ACT/college prep, enrichment and social and emotional learning will be provided at 25 additional safe places throughout Davidson County through IFM and its partners of MNPS, The Starlings, Metro Parks, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 100 Black Men, Knowledge Academies and the Nashville After Zone Alliance (NAZA).

This request for \$350,000 of FY-20 Direct Appropriations funding recognizes the valuable linkage that exists between IFM, MNPS and Metro Parks. It is our plan to continue to create the atmosphere of shared resources and opportunities with MNPS that can be developed into a partner relationship. This expansion will offer the IFM concept to a more diverse population of economically disadvantaged youth and families and will support transportation efforts as this population often experiences lack of transportation as a barrier to attendance.

Parents, grandparents and other adult relatives provide support and supervision during our Saturday sessions, after school and college tours. A strong family and community partnership component allow us to marry our communities/families with the business sector for the dual exposure of realizing the potential of training and the advantages of initiatives such as Drive 55 and Reconnect. Partnerships

such as these will provide Davidson County with opportunities to address the needs of the adult population in the same challenging neighborhoods by strengthening the economic potential and educational status of the families involved: a true winner for Davidson County across the board.

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?

The IFM program is a model for creating a more equitable Nashville because it serves as an equalizer for the underserved children who attend low performing schools to get supplemental academic assistance free that qualifies the student for college, regardless of the parent's socio-economic level. With funding of this proposal, the students will progress academically, athletically and personally. The IFM not only assist the young people, but throughout the year parents are educated to the process of getting college and carrier ready.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please email In Full Motion's Executive Director, Cynthia Fitzgerald at Cynthia.fitzgerald@comcast.net or call 615 254-6800.

Submitted By:

Cynthia W. Fitzgerald

Cynthia Webb Fitzgerald,
Executive Director

cc: Dennise Meyers and Vaughn Wilson