

## **Fiscal Year 2020 Direct Appropriations**

**Note: For FY20 Direct Appropriations, non-profit organizations should make their request for funding to the Director of Finance by February 8, 2019. At a minimum, please provide the following information:**

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

Since 1971, Progress promotes health, happiness, and safety for people with disabilities and senior adults needing care. We provide staff supports to bridge the gap between limited independence and the realization of the best possible life. In advancing this mission, Progress provides a wide array of services for people with intellectual disabilities, ranging from companion-model in-home care, respite, community-based day services, and comprehensive employment services for people with varying disabilities (intellectual, physical, and developmental). Specifically, Progress offers a Ticket to Work Employment Network, which provides employment training and placement, and Project Search internships programs enabling interns to be job-ready at the completion of the program.

Progress began serving seniors in 2009 after realizing that a growing number of seniors needed services that Progress had become expert in. Through the Senior Services program at Progress, seniors receive a variety of services including, personal care, meal preparation, housekeeping, medication reminders, respite care, and transportation services – all of the care they need to be able to “age in place” gracefully in their own homes.

### **2. How many residents are your currently serving and how do they benefit?**

Progress currently serves 301 individuals. Nearly 200 of these individuals have intellectual disabilities and benefit by receiving residential support and/or employment training and supports. Progress has become a Nashville leader in providing employment supports and job training for people with varying disabilities. The comprehensive employment services that Progress provides people with disabilities includes: internship programs; resume preparation; interviewing skills; job search support; communication with prospective employers; and other needed supports to successfully secure long-term employment. Employers are coached on how to make appropriate accommodations for this willing and committed workforce. Clients benefit from the services in numerous ways such as the obvious economic self-sufficiency that earning a living provides. Less obvious is the increased independence, self-confidence and self-esteem that training, the acquisition of new skills and employment provide.

More than 100 people are served through the Senior Services program. They benefit by being able to safely remain in their own homes rather than needing to move into an assisted living facility, and retaining a higher level of independence. Additionally, people with intellectual disabilities participating in the Community-based Day Program delivered 1132 Meals on Wheels last fiscal year.

**3. How much funding are you requesting from Metro?**

Progress requests \$49,200 in funding from Metro.

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

If funding is awarded, Progress anticipates a 7% increase in the number of people served.

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

In addition to serving more Nashvillians, funding from Metro would help us increase the employment rate of Nashvillians with disabilities, and increase the diversity in our labor force. Currently Davidson County is experiencing a boom with low unemployment and a shortage of low income workers. Employers are having a difficult time staffing businesses and are experiencing high turnover particularly in traditionally low-skilled, low-income jobs. When businesses are not fully staffed, efficiency decreases as do profits and tax revenues; the government has less funding to provide needed services such as education and public safety. Simultaneously, one of the most underemployed populations is people with disabilities. Working helps people earn money, learn new skills, meet new people, and play an important role in their communities. This program resolves both problems by training a loyal, dedicated population that wants to work and traditionally has a lower turnover rate for jobs that are difficult to fill in the current economic climate. Additionally, we are transforming a low-income population receiving government assistance into taxpayers contributing to society. In doing this we are also changing perceptions of this too-frequently marginalized population through inclusion in our daily lives and increasing their independence, skills, and self-confidence. The program increases the diversity in our community by including people who are often left out of participating in the workforce. This benefits society as a whole both financially and through better life quality.

**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?**

This funding would directly increase the equitability of Nashville. Some of the most marginalized citizens in our community are people with disabilities and seniors in need. Funding would enable us to provide support to increase the independence of these individuals and specifically to aid in the training and skills development of people with

intellectual and other types of disabilities so that they have greater opportunity to successfully join the workforce, increase their economic independence, and participate in the city's success.