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Metro Finance Department,

My name is Quintina Sisney, Founder and Executive Director of The Hope Station, Inc, a non-profit organization designed to assist single, working mothers and their children with homeless prevention by providing rental assistance. Our mission is to assist single, working mothers who would not qualify for governmental assistance due to salary but who need emergency help with utilities, water, and/or mortgage/rental expenses. The Hope Station, Inc. responds to the call of these heads of households who are working diligently to provide for their families.

In order to qualify for Hope Station, an applicant must have an annual household income of at least \$33,000, must have at least one child under eighteen years old living in the home, and show evidence of an immediate housing or utilities crisis. Our mission is to lend a hand up, not a handout.

In 2018, we were able to prevent late fees, court cost, evictions and potential homelessness and service disconnections for over 200 women and children in Davidson County.

The impact of a \$66,000 grant will allow The Hope Station to provide financial assistance with housing and utilities for one hundred (100) additional single, working mothers in Davidson County. We want our clients and their children to become self-sufficient with money management, setting them up for a brighter future. Our goal is to be much more than a provider of financial assistance. We are planning to partner with a local non-profit financial agency to teach our clients how to budget properly, develop a saving strategy, learn to pay off current bills and credit restoration. In addition, with proper funding, we can partner with the Department of Human Services as a resource to single mothers they are unable to assist due to income requirements.

We believe we fit into your focus area of community and social services.

In recent years the cost of living in Nashville has increased drastically, consuming a significant percentage of a families' income. As a result, there is little room in the household budget for emergencies that will arise such as a sick child, home repairs or a major car repair. Often difficult decision must be made that could result in eviction notices and court costs. A frequent answer has been the check advance cycle or borrowing from friends and family. Now, Hope Station is a healthy alternative to help bridge the gap. It assists with housing, allowing the family to remain in their current living arrangement and keep the children in the same schools. There is no significant disruption to their lives.

Please consider The Hope Station as a 2020 grant recipient. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Quintina R. Waller
Founder and Executive Director, Hope Station, Inc

