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March 30, 2023

The Honorable Mayor Bill Glancy and City Council

Attn: Jawaria Tareen

City of Farmers Branch

13000 William Dodson Pkwy

Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Dear Mayor and Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to request funding for services provided by Metrocrest Services to residents of Farmers Branch.

The individuals, families, and seniors who request services from Metrocrest are primarily those challenged by joblessness, illness, fixed income, or lack of a local caregiver. Overall, the economy is performing well, but many of our neighbors are now struggling with rising costs due to record mortgage and rental rates, along with inflation rates not seen in the last 40 years. Our service of direct financial assistance with rent and utilities helps our neighbors withstand financial stresses while they are striving to regain self-sufficiency. Our longer term assistance with food, transportation for seniors and adults with disabilities, home repairs for seniors, employment services, financial education, and GED preparation helps build their resources for a stronger future.

Joe, a 45-year-old Farmers Branch resident, has been working on his IT/Computer certifications to change his future. In the meantime, he worked as a DJ for private events and parties. In the end, he just could not make ends meet and began using some of his school loans just to survive. Soon, those funds were depleted and he had nowhere to turn, as he had already asked family and friends for help. That's when he discovered Metrocrest and the supportive services provided to residents that need a helping hand. Through our partnership with the city of Farmers Branch and the Preventing Homelessness Program, Metrocrest was able to provide Joe with assistance to keep him safely housed. Additionally, Joe was able to access our Food Pantry to help stretch his tight budget. Finally, Joe enrolled in our Workforce Development seminar, Competitive Edge. The seminar is a 3 ½ day training with a focus on financial education, job search skills, interview readiness, resume review, and on-site interviews with local employers. These types of supportive services help Farmers Branch residents overcome a crisis and provide margin for them to better themselves.

Serving Carrollton, Farmers Branch, Addison, Coppell, and city of Dallas in Denton County

Funding from the City of Farmers Branch is critical to serve the needs for the community. For those that visit our Food Pantry, 89% say were provided enough food to last them for a week and 90% felt the food was nutritious. Beyond the Basic Needs services provided, Metrocrest is working closely with our neighbors on long term solutions to chronic poverty. With each visit to Metrocrest, our neighbors are receiving valuable coaching for personal budgeting and working with Workforce Development to increase their income. After working with our Case Manager Coach, 69% reduced their expenses and 80% report they have a better understanding of their household budgets. For many, this is the first time they have ever created a budget and tracked spending. Creating and maintaining these habits will ultimately stabilize their families and allow them to focus on creating a better life for themselves and their community.

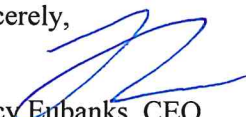
For Fiscal Year 2024 (Oct 2023-Sept 2024), we anticipate providing direct assistance to 4,158 residents at a cost of \$2,569,801. **For these purposes, we respectfully request funding of \$227,060 for Fiscal Year 2023-24 Service Contract**, which is 8.8% of the funding required to meet the needs of Farmers Branch residents and accounts for 1.7% of the agency budget. Prior to the pandemic, the City of Farmers Branch provided funding that covered approximately 18% of overall costs to serve Farmers Branch residents. With the rise in cost of services, the requested increase is commensurate with previous funding levels. The remaining funds will be raised through grants and community giving.

Additionally, **Metrocrest Services is request funding of \$29,920 for the Impacting Child Homelessness (Safe and Sound) Initiative** and continue to support children and the ability to keep them safely housed, and attending their current school.

While the pandemic is behind us, the historic inflation is creating a significant burden for the neighbors we serve. This in turn will likely slow the recovery and the families we serve will be the last to regain a solid foundation. Of those we serve, over 57% are currently employed. Continued support for these families is critical to the overall health of our community.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present Metrocrest Services for funding through the City of Farmers Branch. I will be pleased to discuss our services and this proposal at your convenience.

Sincerely,


Tracy Eubanks, CEO
Metrocrest Services

Enclosures

- List of Board of Directors
- Program Information
- Current Operating budget
- Audited Financial Statements
- IRS Determination Letter