

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



November 12, 2015

Randal Boyd, Board Chair
Nashville Achieves
10427 Petsafe Way
Knoxville, TN 37932

Dear Mr. Boyd:

Please find attached the monitoring report of the Nashville Achieves relating to the contract it had with the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

The Office of Financial Accountability is charged with the responsibility of monitoring grant funds, including Direct Appropriations, from Metropolitan Nashville Government to any nonprofit organization. Staff from the Office of Financial Accountability completed a desk review on the grant activity on October 6, 2015.

We appreciate the assistance provided by your agency during the course of the review. If you have any questions, please call me at 615-862-6712.

Sincerely,

Kevin Brown

Kevin Brown, CMFO, CICA
Finance Administrator

cc: Krissy DeAlejandro, Executive Director
Talia Lomax-O'dneal, Director of Finance
Gene Nolan, Deputy Director of Finance

Kim McDoniel, Chief of Accounts

Mark Swann, Internal Audit

Fred Adom, CPA, CGMA, CICA, Director, Office of Financial Accountability

Essie Robertson, CPA, CMFO, CICA, Office of Financial Accountability

Aaron Davis, CICA, Office of Financial Accountability



Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

NASHVILLE ACHIEVES

◆ **Monitoring Report** ◆

Conducted by



Office of Financial Accountability

November 12, 2015

MONITORING REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The Office of Financial Accountability (hereinafter referred to as “OFA”) has completed a monitoring review of Nashville Achieves. A monitoring review is substantially less in scope than an audit. The OFA did not audit the financial statements and, accordingly, does not express an opinion or any assurances regarding the financial statements of the Nashville Achieves or any of its component units. The OFA is responsible for the internal monitoring of Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (hereinafter referred to as “Metro”) agencies that receive federal and state financial assistance, including cooperative agreements and non-profit organizations that receive appropriations and Community Enhancement Funds from Metro government. In summary, any agreement(s) that imposes performance and/or financial requirements on Metro government is subject to review by the OFA.

The purpose of this review was to assess the agency’s compliance with contractual requirements set forth in the following contract with Metro Government:

Contract	Type	Amount	Contact Term	
L-3208	Direct Appropriations	\$500,000	July 1, 2014	June 30, 2015

Agency Background

The Nashville Achieves is a program operated by TN Achieves. The Nashville Achieves program is designed to provide scholarship opportunities to graduates from Nashville and Davidson County high schools. The mission of TN Achieves is “to increase higher education opportunities for Tennessee high school students by providing last-dollar scholarships with mentor guidance”. To remain eligible for TN Achieves funding students must meet the following four annual requirements:

1. Enroll in and complete 12 credit hours each semester,
2. maintain a 2.0 GPA,
3. complete and submit 8 hours of community service by the established deadlines, and
4. complete the FAFSA each year before February 15.

OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The objectives of our review were:

- 1) To determine whether the agency had the resources and capacity to administer the grant funds.
- 2) To determine if costs and services were allowable and eligible.
- 3) To verify that program objectives were met.
- 4) To test the reliability of the financial and programmatic reporting.
- 5) To verify contractual compliance.

The scope of our review was limited to the contract term July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

The monitoring review procedures included meeting with agency management and staff, reviewing board minutes and obtaining written representations from management. In addition, we examined certain financial records and supporting documentation necessary to ensure compliance with contractual requirements set forth in contract L-3208. Specific procedures included:

- Interviewing the employees responsible for grant management, financial reporting and accountability.
- Reviewing supporting documentation of expenditures for allowability, necessity and reasonableness.
- Reviewing the agency's general ledger and verifying the accuracy of all invoices submitted to Metro.
- Reviewing documentation to determine that funds were used for intended beneficiaries and expended in accordance with the spending plan of the contract.
- Reviewing documentation to support program activities for consistency with grant requirements.
- Assessing the financial stability of the agency and its ability to continue to administer the grant program funded by Metro.

RESULTS OF REVIEW

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Criteria	Yes	No
Sufficient Resources and Capacity to Administer Funds?	✓	
Costs and Services Allowable and Eligible?	✓	
Program Objectives Met?	✓	
Reporting Requirements Met?	✓	
Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements?	✓	

RESULTS OF REVIEW

The overall results of the monitoring review are provided in this section. Results are based on testwork performed and include conclusions regarding specific review objectives and, if applicable, recommendations for improvement and an action plan for implementation. Where applicable, the Findings and Recommendations section of this report provides more insight into any issues identified below.

1. Sufficient Resources and Capacity to Administer Grant Funds

Our review of the agency's accounting system and the qualifications of the individuals assigned to manage the accounting records indicate that the agency possesses the necessary resources and professional expertise to effectively administer the grant funds.

2. Allowable and Eligible Costs and Services

Our review covered all of the core compliance areas identified by 2 CFR Part 200: *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*.

Additionally, the Metro Grants Manual requires separate accounting of the Metropolitan Nashville Government grant funds to prevent co-mingling of Metro Funds with other sources of funding. The agency is in compliance with this requirement. Different revenue classes as well as expenditure classes have been established to separately track the sources and amounts of funding. Also, the agency can easily and accurately report their expenses supported by the Metro Appropriation.

Based on our test work, costs and services during the period were allowable and eligible.

3. Program and Performance Objectives

The contract stipulates that the agency shall use the funds to provide "at least 500 Nashville and Davidson County High School graduates scholarships through the Nashville Achieves program".

RESULTS OF REVIEW

Based on our review of program documentation and discussions with staff, the Nashville Achieves only served 53 students instead of the 500 as required by the contract; however, the agency only utilized \$60,934.00 of grant funds to award 53 scholarships. Further inquiries with agency staff revealed that the number of program participants served was lower than anticipated due to other unforeseen financial support being available to graduates of Nashville and Davidson County High Schools that attended Nashville State Community College by the NSCC Foundation; the same population the grant was intended to assist. As a result, the OFA concluded the reasons for not meeting the goals were beyond the Nashville Achieves control therefore a finding for unmet program objectives was unwarranted.

4. Reliability of Financial and Programmatic Reporting

The contract requires submission of an annual audit report performed by a Certified Public Accountant. The contract also requires the agency to submit to Metro year end reports of the program outcome and a final expenditures report, no more than 45 days after the close of the contract.

We reviewed all applicable financial and programmatic reports required by the contract, including audited financial statements. Based on our review, the agency was in compliance with all financial and programmatic reporting requirements.

5. Civil Rights Requirements

Our review did not reveal anything to indicate that the agency was noncompliant with civil rights requirements. The agency also has necessary written policies and procedures relating to civil rights. The agency has not received any complaints regarding any form of discrimination. Further, civil rights and ADA postings are publicly displayed.