

# Commission's Grant Application Form

Shelby County Board of Commissioners

## **GRANT APPLICATION**

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Legal Name of the Organization: 5 for 5

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EIN: 46-5653495

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Street Address of Organization 2025 Clifton Ave. Rm 207 Memphis, TN 38127

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Office Phone: 901-334-7460

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E-mail [admin@5for5memphis.org](mailto:admin@5for5memphis.org)

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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First Name Patricia

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Last Name McNair

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## GENERAL CONTACT FOR THIS REQUEST(if other than Executive Director)

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First Name Patricia

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Last Name McNair

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Title: Executive Director

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## DESCRIPTION OF GRANT REQUEST

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Program/Project Area: 5 for 5's Focus on Literacy to Increase Graduation

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Amount Requested 24,999.00

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Total Organizational budget (for current year): 23,200

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Total Project/Program Budget: 65,000

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Dates covered by this budget: October 1, 2016 - August 2, 2017

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Project/Program Name: Literacy to Success

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## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF ORGANIZATION

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Please summarize in a short paragraph the purpose of your agency. Briefly explain why your agency is requesting this grant, what outcomes you hope to achieve, and how you will spend the funds if a grant is made.

5 for 5's sole purpose is to increase graduation rate in lower income neighborhoods. One of the ways we do that is through a literacy program called, "Literacy to Success," a proven program that grows children in reading comprehension by 2-3 grade levels from only 43 hours of instructional practice. The program was created for older children (grades 3-12). This is a gap that requires a lot of attention in our community. Once a child passes 2nd grade not knowing how to read, there is an 80% chance he/she will end up in prison. Our program stops that by giving our youth who were left behind a second chance to catch up. We believe if we can get this program into every school that has non-readers or lagging readers, youth and adult crime will steadily decrease due to a higher graduation rate. Graduation is only an obtainable goal if one can read and comprehend. Outcomes: We know that this literacy program is amazing, all children in the program grow, with the majority gaining grade levels of reading comprehension. We want schools to use the program as a tool to use for future children in need after we are out of their schools. That way, schools have an actual tool that works for urban children that leads them to graduation. How will we spend the funds? It costs \$5,000 per 9-weeks to place a literacy instructor and cover the licensure fee per school. We have four schools that have committed to having the program in their school, with 2 started in the 1st 9-weeks. The other 2 will join the 2 that started this 1st 9-weeks. For the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th 9-weeks, we will use the money to cover the licensure fee for each school and have a trained literacy instructor in the school for the school year. This will be a total of 11 periods remaining in which we need funding to have a trained person with materials to increase literacy in these schools. That is a total of \$55,000. A charitable foundation sponsored the 1st 9-weeks and 1 school in the 2nd 9-weeks already. That's why we have a total of 11 periods vs

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14 remaining for this school year. After school ends, we would use \$20,000 to host another Summer Literacy Program, as we did this year. We were highly successful with over 80% of the children growing in reading comprehension, and 100% growing in fluency, taught by Teacher Assistants.

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### Narrative - Organization

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Current programs and accomplishments. Please emphasize the achievements of the recent past.

We have two programs---a housing program to promote graduation and a literacy program to promote graduation. The kids in our housing program have increased attendance in school and have been crime-free. In our literacy program, our most recent success came through our Summer Reading Program, held at Impact Ministries on Clifton Ave. There over 80% of the children increased by one entire grade level in their comprehension, while 100% of them increased in fluency. We had over 55 applications for the program, but we only had a budget for 16. We could have positively equipped more children if we had the funds. Currently, we are working in two schools, both of which are seeing growth in their students involved in our program.

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Numbers of paid full-time staff: 0

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Number of paid part-time staff: 4

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Number of volunteers: 1

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### Narrative - Funding Request

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Please describe the program/project for which you seek funding and include how it will benefit the general welfare of residents in Shelby County, TN.

We are seeking funds to close the gaps of literacy for children in grades 3-12 who are non-readers or lagging readers. Not having the ability to read and comprehend is the leading factor in children not graduating. Using our program, "Literacy to Success" changes the outcome on life for these children and gives schools an excellent tool to use year after year. Shelby County residents benefit from this in multiple ways. First, graduation rates increase. Youth crime decreases due to problem children often can't read. And the county, as a whole,

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increases viable, educated, workers for the workforce, which attracts more business.

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### **General Operating Support**

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If applying for general operating support, briefly describe how this grant will be used.

This is not for general operating support. This is for a specific target--literacy.

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### **Project Support**

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Please explain the specific project including a statement of its primary purpose and the need or problem that you are seeking to address.

5 for 5's sole purpose is to increase graduation rate in lower income neighborhoods. One of the ways we do that is through a literacy program called, "Literacy to Success," a proven program that grows children in reading comprehension by 2-3 grade levels from only 43 hours of instructional practice. The program was created for older children (grades 3-12). This is a gap that requires a lot of attention in our community. Once a child passes 2nd grade not knowing how to read, there is an 80% chance he/she will end up in prison. Our program stops that by giving our youth who were left behind a second chance to catch up. We believe if we can get this program into every school that has non-readers or lagging readers, youth and adult crime will steadily decrease due to a higher graduation rate. Graduation is only an obtainable goal if one can read and comprehend.

How does the project contribute to your organization's overall mission?

Our mission is, "... to revitalize high-crime, high dropout communities through Restoration, Graduation and Homeownership. We believe an educated mind is the best defense against incarceration and crime." Equipping children to read and schools with the tools for future students directly ties in with 5 for 5's mission.

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### **Narrative - Evaluation**

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Please explain how you will measure the effectiveness of your activities. Describe your criteria for a successful program and the results

We will use multiple tools to measure the effectiveness of our program. As an organization, we use a Reading Placement Inventory developed by DSI, Inc., Richmond, VA in conjunction with MetaMetrics, Inc., along with the schools we service internal testing. All tests are given in a Pre and Post test. The results of the students are placed on a graph to show their

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