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September 17, 2018

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SEP 25 2018

City of Vicksburg
1413 Walnut Street
Vicksburg, MS. 39180

Dear Mayor [✓]Flaggs, Alderman Mayfield, Alderman Monsour,

On September 10, 2018, Shape Up Mississippi was approved for a \$20,475.00 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture for a project titled, "Enhance and improve outreach, education, and management at the Vicksburg Community Garden."

Shape Up Mississippi is one of four members of the Vicksburg Live Healthy Action Team that helped the City of Vicksburg win the 2017 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize. Shape Up Mississippi received \$25,000 from the Foundation for helping make health a priority. We would like to request the additional \$25,000 in matching funds from the City of Vicksburg.

Shape Up Mississippi in partnership with the City of Vicksburg, and collaboration with the 412th Theater Engineer Command entered into a conversation to install the below infrastructure which is imperative to the long-term success of the Vicksburg Community Garden.

1. Installation of a protective perimeter fence around the planting area of the garden to decrease wildlife destruction.
2. Installation of an irrigation system to improve drainage and prevent flooding.
3. Installation of a 15' by 60' shade pavilion to revitalize the community garden area for a weekly farmers market and for schools and groups to use as an outdoor classroom.

The Vicksburg Community Garden has been in operation for four years and has increased neighborhood access to fresh fruits and vegetables, helped turn land into a beneficial and beautiful space, encouraged residents to increase physical activity and make healthier food choices, allows neighbors the opportunity to gather together and build strong friendships, and is open to all, regardless of age, ability, socioeconomic status or gardening experience.

This city-wide garden is an open community park with a quarter-mile walking trail, children's playground equipment, interactive family activity signs (United Way Born Learning Trail), exercise equipment, a Little Free Library box, raised container beds, a half-acre of traditional gardening plots, an area containing nut and fruit trees, an education area, and a dog park.

We look forward to the opportunity to sit down with you and share additional information if necessary.

Healthy Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Fondren".
Linda Fondren,
Executive Director
601-529-6120

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pursuant to
SEP-17-1
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ADD
THIS

Route 1 & College Road East P.O. Box 2316
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-2316
Tel. 877 843 RWJF (7953)
www.rwjf.org



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

October 3, 2017

Linda Fondren
Executive Director
Shape Up Mississippi
3215 Plaze Drive
Vicksburg, MS 39180

Dear Ms. Fondren:

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) congratulates your community on being chosen as one of the eight winners of the 2017 RWJF Culture of Health Prize. You will receive a copy of this letter and our check in the amount of \$25,000 in recognition of this award shortly.

I.D.:	75008 - County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
Amount:	\$25,000
Purpose:	2017 RWJF Culture of Health Prize
Project Information:	Grant Period: October 15, 2017 through November 14, 2017
	Project Director: Linda Fondren, 601-619-7277 (lfondren@aol.com)

Selected from more than 200 applicants from across the country, your community's accomplishments reflect a commitment to ensuring that everyone in your community has the opportunity to live a long and healthy life now and for generations to come. The Prize recognizes that your community is leading some of the nation's most innovative efforts to build a national Culture of Health, and we look forward to the opportunity to continue to learn from your efforts and elevate your accomplishments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Christine Phares". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Christine Phares
Program Financial Analyst

No. 186067

INVOICE NUMBER	INVOICE DATE	REFERENCE	AMOUNT
75008-GR147915	09-Oct-17		25,000.00
		TOTAL	25,000.00