
Sustainability Commission
Public Works Department

To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Don Bessler, Public Works Director (350-8205)
John Kane, Chair - Sustainability Commission
Date: May 26, 2016
Subject: National League of Cities, Leadership in Community Resilience Grant

Mayor & Councilmembers,

The Sustainable Cities Institute at the National League of Cities (NLC) launched a new pilot program on Leadership in Community Resilience and selected 10 cities to participate in an initial cohort. The City of Tempe was one of 10 cities selected by the NLC to join this program. Public Works staff will request authorization to receive a \$10,000 grant being awarded by the National League of Cities in a future council agenda.

Background on the NLC Leadership in Community Resilience Program:

Resilience has increasingly been embraced as a comprehensive, pro-active framework to reduce risk and improve operations within the private sector and at all levels of government. The purpose of NLC program is to develop and advance the emerging city-level models for pursuing resilience objectives and to apply those models. The program includes two main components.

- A Policy and Practice Exchange that will be facilitated by NLC staff. This exchange will allow for discussions related to local resilience goals, solicit feedback from other cities in a collaborative environment, and connect with multiple public and private sector practitioners throughout the country.
- A grant in the amount of \$10,000 to support a local resilience event. Grant funds may be spent on costs directly associated with events such as cross-departmental resilience workshops, public engagement forums to promote awareness and foster whole-community resilience, or regional resilience workshop to coordinate planning or implementation efforts among multiple municipalities.

NCL's goal is to generate new insights related to the challenges and opportunities associated with local resilience initiatives as well as accelerate the use of innovative new tools and practices among thousands of NLC members.

City of Tempe Proposal for Grant Funds:

Staff has discussed with the Sustainability Commission different options for utilizing the grant to build organizational understanding and capacity. It was determined that a workshop would be an effective way to implement the spirit of the grant and facilitate cultural knowledge in the organization.

Specifically, the grant funds would be used to host a half day workshop (focus on sustainability and community resilience) for City of Tempe staff to engage with the new Sustainability Commission for the purpose of educating and garnering support broadly across the organization. One of the primary objectives is to create alignment to the City Council priorities and the City Manager's Strategic Initiative. The hope is to attract experts and renowned speakers who will share their expertise regarding Resiliency Initiative concepts. Participants will learn a range of practices that can improve community resilience through interactive activities and group discussion.

Attached for your information is the Participant Agreement form highlighting roles and responsibilities. Following approval to accept the grant this agreement will need to be signed by the Mayor.

Cc Don Bessler, Public Works Director
Carla Sidi, Board Liaison