

January 4, 2024

**To:** Mayor and Members of City Council

202400031

**From:** Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

**Subject: Emergency Ordinance – OES: USDN Grant for Higher-Education Sustainability Cohort by Last Mile Food Rescue**

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Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

**AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to apply for a grant of up to \$15,000 from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network to create a Higher-Education Sustainability Cohort in partnership with Last Mile Food Rescue.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to apply for a grant of up to \$15,000 from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (“USDN”) to create a Higher-Education Sustainability Cohort implemented by Last Mile Food Rescue. The Higher-Education Sustainability Cohort will convene a dialogue regarding sustainability efforts and best practices among regional higher education institutions and their student bodies. The cohort will also be tasked with developing a project to decrease student food insecurity and divert food waste from landfills.

The City served as the lead applicant on the grant application as a member of USDN. However, Last Mile Food Rescue will receive the grant resources directly from the USDN. As the designated project partner and fiscal agent, Last Mile Food Rescue will execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the USDN. The City will execute a MOU with the USDN to administer the grant. The USDN grant does not require new FTEs/full time equivalents or local matching resources. However, the City will provide in-kind staff time toward the project.

Creating the Higher-Education Sustainability Cohort is in accordance with the “Sustain” goal to “[b]ecome a healthier Cincinnati” and strategy to “[c]reate a healthy environment and reduce energy consumption” and the “Collaborate” goal to “[s]peak in a unified voice with other entities to reach regional goals” and strategy to “[a]ctively coordinate our regional efforts” as described on pages 181-186 and 213-216 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to create the Higher-Education Sustainability Cohort within the established project timeline.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director  
Karen Alder, Finance Director



Attachment