

April 3, 2024

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

202400994

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – OES: USDA Compost & Food Waste Reduction Grant

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to accept and appropriate a Compost & Food Waste Reduction Grant (ALN 10.935) of up to \$400,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture (the “USDA Grant”) to support diverting food loss and waste from landfills, increasing food recovery and transformation, and creating compost; **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the USDA Grant resources into Environment and Sustainability Fund 436 revenue account no. 436x8543; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and return to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund of \$100,000 from capital improvement program project account no. 980x104x231029, “Green Cincinnati Sustainability Initiatives – GF”; and **AUTHORIZING** the transfer of \$100,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the Environment and Sustainability Fund 436 to provide matching resources for the USDA Grant.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance authorizes the following:

1. the City Manager to accept and appropriate a Compost & Food Waste Reduction Grant of up to \$400,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support diverting food loss and waste from landfills, increasing food recovery and transformation, and creating compost;
2. the Finance Director to deposit USDA Grant resources into Environment and Sustainability Fund 436 revenue account no. 436x8543;
3. the transfer and return to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund of \$100,000 from capital improvement program project account no. 980x104x231029, “Green Cincinnati Sustainability Initiatives – GF”; and
4. the transfer of \$100,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the unappropriated surplus of Environment and Sustainability Fund 436 to provide matching resources for the USDA Grant.

On June 26, 2023, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 0253-2023, which authorized the City Manager to apply for the USDA Grant to support diverting food waste from landfills and creating compost. The City was awarded the USDA Grant for up to \$400,000.

The USDA Grant requires a 25 percent local match, totaling \$100,000, which is available in existing capital improvement program project account no. 980x104x231029, “Green Cincinnati Sustainability Initiatives – GF.” These resources need to be transferred to Environment and Sustainability Fund 436 to be used for the local match. The Office of Environment and Sustainability will use the matching funds to fund temporary personnel.

No new FTEs/full time equivalents are associated with the USDA Grant.

Diverting food waste from landfills and creating compost 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” as described on pages 181-186 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept the grant resources and align with the established grant period.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

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



Attachment