



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2023-385

Agenda Date: May 4, 2023

Department: Public Works

Title: 2023-385 USDA Grant Application for Multifamily Food Waste Pilot Program (B)

Department: Public Works

Description: Request for the Public Works Department to apply for and accept, if awarded, a USDA grant for a multifamily pilot program.

Fiscal Note: The USDA Grant requires the City of Gainesville to provide a 25% match. The City's match source has been identified in the Solid Waste Fund and will require up to \$30,000 over a two-year period.

Explanation:

This item is a request for the City Commission to authorize the Public Works Department to submit a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resources Conservation Service Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) Project Grant program. The maximum CCFWR Grant award is \$100,000, and this award would be used towards the implementation of a two-year pilot food waste program in multifamily communities.

The City has adopted a goal of Zero Waste by 2040. Landfilled organic material contributes significantly to the production of methane gas, which is about 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

Specifically, the pilot program would evaluate the feasibility of providing door-side collection of food waste at participating multifamily locations serving approximately 200 units. It would also set up a pilot for a centralized drop-off at a participating property.

The City's Zero Waste ordinance requires food waste diversion from multifamily facilities beginning in June of 2024. Pilot programs such as this will provide information to

community builders, multifamily property managers, and the compost industry on the viability of this innovative program.

Strategic Connection:

- Goal 1: Equitable Community
- Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- Goal 5: “Best in Class” Neighbor Services

Recommendation: The City Commission authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the USDA grant application for Multifamily Food Waste Pilot Program, grant award and any other necessary documents, subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality.