



Department Source: City Sustainability

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: March 16, 2020

Re: Partnering with NLC for Leadership in Community Resilience program

## Executive Summary

The City of Columbia has been selected by the National League of Cities (NLC) to join the 2020 Leadership in Community Resilience program. The purpose of the program is to develop and advance resilience objectives from the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) – specifically **Implementation Strategy I-3.3**: “Develop community leadership capacity for and involvement in climate action.” Staff intends to utilize the NLC’s Leadership in Community Resilience program technical support and \$10,000 grant to develop and pilot a neighborhood climate action ambassadors program – CAAPtains – with a group of community stakeholders.

## Discussion

The Columbia City Council unanimously adopted a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) in June 2019. Implementing the CAAP requires motivating staff, finding funding for strategies, involving community members to make key changes and sustaining momentum.

The City of Columbia has been selected by the National League of Cities (NLC) to join the 2020 Leadership in Community Resilience (LRC) program. The goal of the LRC is to improve the capacity of local governments as they identify and achieve their climate resilience and disaster preparedness benchmarks.

Assistance will be delivered in four ways:

- **\$10,000 grant** to build local resilience capacity by supporting an implementation project or hosting a mayoral-level engagement event.
- **Technical Assistance from NLC staff** (e.g., consultation, accountability, case studies, and best practices).
- An invitation and travel support to an **in-person convening** for the mayor and one key staff member (2020 date and location TBD).
- **NLC Staff city visit**. At least one NLC staff member will support the project with a site visit. Depending on the city's needs, these visits can be used to facilitate public engagement, leverage support from elected officials, help coordinate key partners, and other related activities.

City staff applied to the LRC program for the development and support of a neighborhood climate action ambassadors program – CAAPtains (CAAP I-3.3.4). The proposed “CAAPtain” project helps us build capacity, through community engagement, for the implementation of Columbia’s ambitious plan.



Throughout the CAAP development process, public input was essential to informing CAAP priorities and moving forward the actions of individuals will be necessary to meet City emission reduction targets. City staff and community stakeholders will develop neighborhood climate action ambassadors (CAAPtains). This capacity-building program will have programming specific to the CAAP, with a focus on equitable community engagement and reaching community neighbors not normally involved in the environmental movement.

The Office of Sustainability will serve as lead on the project and have engaged with a group of stakeholders that includes the City of Columbia Office of Neighborhood Services, Columbia / Boone County Public Health & Human Services, Inclusive Impact Institute, and the Climate & Environment Commission for the City of Columbia. As the program progresses, the project team expects to grow the community of stakeholders.

### Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$10,000

Long-Term Impact: n/a

### Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Operational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Environmental Management, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### Legislative History

Date	Action
06/17/2019	Policy Resolution 89-19 Adopting the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan

### Suggested Council Action

Authorize the City of Columbia to enter into a partnership agreement with the National League of Cities for participation in the Leadership in Community Resilience program.