

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**AGENDA ITEM**  
**DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA DATE:** 11/23/2021

**PUBLIC HEARING DATE:** N/A

**CONTACT PERSON(S) NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:** Mirella Craigo, (915) 212-1617

**DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED:** All Districts

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** 1. Cultivate an environment conducive to strong, sustainable economic development

**SUBGOAL:** 1.1 Stabilize and expand El Paso's tax base

**SUBJECT:**

*APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.*

That the Mayor and City Council be authorized to sign a Letter of Commitment and Support between the City of El Paso, Texas, a Texas home rule municipal corporation, and the National League of Cities, a Washington D.C. nonprofit organization, to participate in the 2021-2022 City Innovation Ecosystems Program.

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

*Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?*

On October 4, 2021, the National League of Cities invited the City of El Paso to participate in its City Innovation Ecosystems Program. The National League of Cities is a Washington D.C. based nonprofit organization and the City Innovation Ecosystems Program is designed to galvanize cities to select a commitment that will drive racially and geographically inclusive economic development. Through this program the City of El Paso will commit itself to participate in quarterly coaching calls and surveys with NLC Program Experts, as well as quarterly calls with other participating cities in the United States to share and learn best practices.

Additionally, the City of El Paso will conduct a landscape analysis of local ecosystem resources and presentation by April 2022, and implement a formal relationship with a Community Development Financial Institution ("CDFI") and reform a policy or practice, which result in local businesses securing CDFI financing by August 2022. This initiative would advance equal access to capital for underrepresented entrepreneurs and builds on existing City efforts to assist small businesses recover from the pandemic through increased access to capital.

Upon completion of the commitment-specific initiating activity, commitment-specific output, and Request for Information ("RFI"), the City of El Paso would be eligible to apply for \$15,000 in implementation funding in April 2022. No match is required.

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

*Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?*

N/A

**AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

*How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?*

N/A

**HAVE ALL AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS BEEN NOTIFIED?**       X   YES                     \_\_\_ NO

**PRIMARY DEPARTMENT:** Economic & International Development

**SECONDARY DEPARTMENT:** N/A

---

\*\*\*\*\*REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION\*\*\*\*\*

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

**Elizabeth Triggs, Interim Director**



---

*(If Department Head Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)*

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the City of El Paso is committed to implementing equitable policies, programs, and practices to support entrepreneurship-led economic growth in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Innovation Ecosystems Program aims to promote equitable economic growth in cities by facilitating the adoption of inclusive and entrepreneurship led policies, programs, and practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is committing to participate in quarterly coaching calls and surveys with NLC Program Experts, quarterly calls with other participating cities in the United States, conduct a landscape analysis of local ecosystem resources and presentation by April 2022, and implement a formal relationship with a Community Development Financial Institution (“CDFI”) and reform a policy or practice that results in local businesses securing CDFI financing by August 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, upon completion of the commitment-specific initiating activity, commitment-specific output, and Request for Information (“RFI”), the City is eligible to apply for \$15,000 in implementation funding in April 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the City shall formally announce its commitment at the National League of Cities’ virtual City Summit Conference on November 17, 2021.

### **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS:**

That the Mayor and City Council be authorized to sign a Letter of Commitment and Support between the City of El Paso, Texas, a Texas home rule municipal corporation, and the National League of Cities, a Washington D.C. nonprofit organization, to participate in the 2021- 2022 City Innovation Ecosystems program.

**PASSED and APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

*(Signatures continue on following page)*

**CITY OF EL PASO:**

---


Oscar Leeser  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

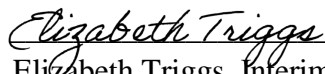
---

Laura D. Prine  
City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frances E. Engelbaum  
Assistant City Attorney

**APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Triggs, Interim Director  
Economic & International Development

**CITY OF EL PASO – LETTER OF COMMITMENT SUPPORT**

**DATE:**

**TO:** Clarence Anthony, NLC President & CEO

**FROM:** Oscar Leeser, Mayor, El Paso, TX

**SUBJECT:** Commitment to participate in the City Innovation Ecosystems program

---

Dear Mr. Anthony,

It is with great enthusiasm that I offer my full support for the inclusion of the City of El Paso as a participant in the City Innovation Ecosystems (CIE) program at the National League of Cities. Through our participation, we are committing ourselves to building a formal relationship with a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) to finance local businesses.

I, or a designee, commit to formally announcing the city’s commitment at NLC’s virtual City Summit Conference on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Our city commits to active participation in the 2021-22 CIE program, including the following activities:

- Working towards the desired outputs and outcomes of this commitment.
  - **Output:** By April 2022, the City will identify 10 or more businesses that would benefit by CDFI financing and connect them to CDFIs for possible financing.
  - **Outcome:** By August 2022, at least 3 small business owners will secure CDFI financing as a direct result of your program participation.
- Engaging in quarterly calls with other cities participating in this cohort to share progress updates and lessons learned.
- Completing quarterly surveys and keeping NLC staff informed of progress.

Specifically, we have identified Elizabeth Triggs, Interim Director of Economic Development within the City of El Paso, as the individual best suited to carry out the implementation of the City’s commitment.

Through its participation in the CIE program, the City of El Paso is committed to implementing equitable policies, programs, and practices to support entrepreneurship-led economic growth in our community. We look forward to leveraging the information, resources, made available by the National League of Cities to do so.

Sincerely,

---

**Oscar Leeser**  
**Mayor**  
**City of El Paso**

*Elizabeth Triggs*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Implementation Lead  
**Elizabeth Triggs**  
**Interim Director of Economic Development**  
**City of El Paso**

---

Date

11/16/2021  
Date

**CITY COUNCIL**

---

**Peter Svarzbein**  
**District 1**

---

Date

---

**Alexsandra Anello**  
**District 2**

---

Date

---

**Cassandra Hernandez**  
**District 3**

---

Date

---

**Joe Molinar**  
**District 4**

---

Date

---

**Isabel Salcido**  
**District 5**

---

Date

---

**Claudia L. Rodriguez**  
**District 6**

---

Date

---

**Henry Rivera**  
**District 7**

---

Date

---

**Cissy Lizarraga**  
**District 8**

---

Date