

**Action Requested/Required:**

- ☐ Vote/Action Requested
☐ Discussion or Presentation Only
☐ Public Hearing
Report Date: _____
Hearing Date: _____
Voting Date: _____

Department: Economic Development **Presenter(s) & Title:** Aundi Lesley, Economic Development Manager

Agenda Item Title:

National League of Cities Southern Cities Economic Initiative Grant

Summary:

The City of Canton was selected along with 19 other cities to receive the Southern Cities Economic Initiative (SCEI) Grant through the National League of Cities. The planning grant includes a \$15,000 award along with six months of technical assistance and peer learning guided by NLC. At the end of the six months, we will have the opportunity to apply for implementation funding of up to \$60,000. This will provide us the opportunity for small business support, particularly Canton's Hispanic entrepreneurs. The initial plans include furthering bilingual business support, procurement opportunities, and business development programs.

Budget Implications:

Budgeted? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Total Cost of Project: \$ 15,000.00 Check if Estimated ☐

Fund Source: General Fund ☐ Water & Sewer ☐ Sales Tax ☐ Other: Grant funds

Staff Recommendations:

N/A

Reviews:

Has this been reviewed by Management and Legal Counsel, if required? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Attachments:

SCEI Info Sheet



National League of Cities SCEI Grant

Exciting News!

Canton is one of twenty cities selected to participate in the Southern Cities Economic Initiative through the National League of Cities. This program is committed to strengthening economic resilience and creating opportunities for all. We will learn from the other cities in the cohort through the bootcamp process and receive a \$15,000 planning grant and the opportunity to apply for up to \$60,000 for implementation. The exact plans for the program will be refined over the next six months during the planning phase.

➔ About the SCEI Grant

- **Who:** Minority business owners, particularly our growing Hispanic population
- **What:** \$15,000 to further the City's bilingual support, procurement opportunities, and business development programs
- **When:** Six month planning period through October 2025 and opportunity for two year implementation with additional funding
- **Why:** The City of Canton is committed to advancing regional economic success and celebrating the diversity in our community.

➔ Get in Touch

Reach out to Aundi Lesley if you have any questions.
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This initiative will further two of the tenets outlined in our Roadmap for Success: Advancing Regional Economic Success and Celebrating the Diversity in our Community.

