

# LEGISLATIVE TRACKING FORM

Filing for Council Meeting Date: 11/18/25

Resolution  Ordinance

Contact/Prepared By: Evan Davis

Date Prepared: 10/21/25

Title (Caption): Healthy and Sustainable Communities Residential Food Scraps 26-27 grant application

to support Metro Waste Service's Food Scrap Pickup Program for a year.

Grant will fund composting services for a 750 household pilot.

Submitted to Planning Commission?  N/A  Yes-Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposal No: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposing Department: Waste Services Requested By: \_\_\_\_\_

Affected Department(s): Mayor's Office Affected Council District(s): All

**Legislative Category (check one):**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonds                | <input type="checkbox"/> Contract Approval            | <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental Agreement   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget - Pay Plan    | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lease                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget - 4%          | <input type="checkbox"/> Easement Abandonment         | <input type="checkbox"/> Maps                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Improvements | <input type="checkbox"/> Easement Accept/Acquisition  | <input type="checkbox"/> Master List A&E               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Outlay Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Settlement of Claims/Lawsuits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Code Amendment       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Street/Highway Improvements   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Condemnation         | <input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Acc.             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                  |

<b>FINANCE</b>	<b>Amount +/-:</b> \$ <u>\$ 275,000.00</u>	<b>Match:</b> \$ <u>\$ 0.00</u>
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Capital Improvement Budget <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Outlay Notes <input type="checkbox"/> Departmental/Agency Budget <input type="checkbox"/> Funds to Metro <input type="checkbox"/> General Obligation Bonds <input type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Increased Revenue Sources	<input type="checkbox"/> Judgments and Losses <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Investment Project <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue Bonds <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Insured Liability <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Unappropriated Fund Balance <input type="checkbox"/> 4% Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Approved by OMB: <u>Aaron Pratt</u>	<u>ll</u>	Date to Finance Director's Office: _____
Approved by Finance/Accounts: _____	<u>Juanita Paulsen</u>	<b>APPROVED BY</b>
Approved by Div Grants Coordination: _____		<b>FINANCE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE:</b> _____

**ADMINISTRATION**

Council District Member Sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_

Council Committee Chair Sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Administration: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTMENT OF LAW**

Date to Dept. of Law: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by Department of Law: \_\_\_\_\_

**Settlement Resolution/Memorandum Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date to Council: \_\_\_\_\_ For Council Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_  E-mailed Clerk

All Dept. Signatures  Copies  Backing  Legislative Summary  Settlement Memo  Clerk Letter  Ready to File

---

## GRANT APPLICATION SUMMARY SHEET

---

**Grant Name:** Healthy & Sustainable Communities-Residential Food Scraps 26-27

**Department:** WASTE SERVICES

**Grantor:** U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

**Pass-Through Grantor (If applicable):**

**Total Applied For** \$275,000.00

**Metro Cash Match:** \$0.00

**Department Contact:** Jenn Harrman  
8802419

**Status:** NEW

**Program Description:**

With funding from the US Conference of Mayors Nashville's Department of Waste Services will provide curbsite composting services to 750 households included in the Food Scrap Pickup Program pilot for one year.

**Plan for continuation of services upon grant expiration:**

Seek private funding and incorporate into the Metro Waste budget.

**APPROVED AS TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:**

Jenneen Reed/mjw 10/27/2025 | 8:18 AM CDT  
**Director of Finance** **Date**

Hannah Britlin 10/27/2025 | 6:57 AM PDT  
**Metropolitan Attorney** **Date**

**APPROVED AS TO RISK AND INSURANCE:**

Balagun Cobb 10/27/2025 | 8:53 AM CDT  
**Director of Risk Management Services** **Date**

Freddie O'Connell (PH) 10/27/2025 | 9:55 AM CDT  
**Metropolitan Mayor** **Date**  
 (This application is contingent upon approval of the application by the Metropolitan Council.)

### Grants Tracking Form

Part One

<b>Pre-Application</b> <input type="radio"/>		<b>Application</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/>		<b>Award Acceptance</b> <input type="radio"/>		<b>Contract Amendment</b> <input type="radio"/>	
Department	Dept. No.	Contact			Phone	Fax	
WASTE SERVICES	072	Jenn Harrman			8802419		
<b>Grant Name:</b>		Healthy & Sustainable Communities-Residential Food Scraps 26-27					
<b>Grantor:</b>		U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS			<b>Other:</b>		
<b>Grant Period From:</b>		01/01/26	<small>(applications only)</small> <b>Anticipated Application Date:</b>		10/27/25		
<b>Grant Period To:</b>		12/31/26	<small>(applications only)</small> <b>Application Deadline:</b>		10/27/25		
<b>Funding Type:</b>		FOUNDATION	<b>Multi-Department Grant</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>→ If yes, list below.</b>		
<b>Pass-Thru:</b>			<b>Outside Consultant Project:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Award Type:</b>		COMPETITIVE	<b>Total Award:</b>		\$275,000.00		
<b>Status:</b>		NEW	<b>Metro Cash Match:</b>		\$0.00		
<b>Metro Category:</b>		New Initiative	<b>Metro In-Kind Match:</b>		\$0.00		
<b>CFDA #</b>		N/A	<b>Is Council approval required?</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Project Description:</b>		<b>Applic. Submitted Electronically?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
<p>With funding from the US Conference of Mayors Nashville's Department of Waste Services will provide curbsite composting services to 750 households included in the Food Scrap Pickup Program pilot for one year.</p>							
<b>Plan for continuation of service after expiration of grant/Budgetary Impact:</b>							
Seek private funding and incorporate into the Metro Waste budget.							
<b>How is Match Determined?</b>							
<b>Fixed Amount of \$</b>		or		<b>% of Grant</b>		<b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Explanation for "Other" means of determining match:</b>							
<b>For this Metro FY, how much of the required local Metro cash match:</b>							
<b>Is already in department budget?</b>			<b>Fund</b>	<b>Business Unit</b>			
<b>Is not budgeted?</b>			<b>Proposed Source of Match:</b>				
<b>(Indicate Match Amount &amp; Source for Remaining Grant Years in Budget Below)</b>							
<b>Other:</b>							
<b>Number of FTEs the grant will fund:</b>		0.00	<b>Actual number of positions added:</b>		0.00		
<b>Departmental Indirect Cost Rate</b>		5.30%	<b>Indirect Cost of Grant to Metro:</b>		\$14,575.00		
<b>*Indirect Costs allowed?</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		<b>% Allow.</b> 4.27%	<b>Ind. Cost Requested from Grantor:</b>		\$11,750.00 <b>in budget</b>		
<b>*(If "No", please attach documentation from the grantor that indirect costs are not allowable. See Instructions)</b>							
<b>Draw down allowable?</b> <input type="checkbox"/>							
<b>Metro or Community-based Partners:</b>							
Compost Nashville							

Part Two

Grant Budget										
Budget Year	Metro Fiscal Year	Federal Grantor	State Grantor	Other Grantor	Local Match Cash	Match Source (Fund, BU)	Local Match In-Kind	Total Grant Each Year	Indirect Cost to Metro	Ind. Cost Neg. from Grantor
Yr 1	FY26			\$275,000.00				\$275,000.00	\$14,575.00	\$11,750.00
Yr 2	FY__									
Yr 3	FY__									
Yr 4	FY__									
Yr 5	FY__									
<b>Total</b>		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$275,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$275,000.00	\$14,575.00	\$11,750.00
<b>Date Awarded:</b>					<b>Tot. Awarded:</b>		<b>Contract#:</b>			
<b>(or) Date Denied:</b>					<b>Reason:</b>					
<b>(or) Date Withdrawn:</b>					<b>Reason:</b>					

Contact: [juanita.paulsen@nashville.gov](mailto:juanita.paulsen@nashville.gov)  
[vaughn.wilson@nashville.gov](mailto:vaughn.wilson@nashville.gov)

GCP Received 10/22/25

GCP Approved  
10/22/25



RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A resolution approving an application for a Healthy and Sustainable Communities grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors to the Metropolitan Government, acting by and through the Nashville Department of Waste Services, to rethink waste management, expand services available to residents, and improve related environmental and human health challenges by providing free curbside compost collection to 750 households included in the Food Scrap Pickup Program.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors is accepting applications for a Healthy and Sustainable Communities grant, with an award of \$275,000 with no cash match required; and,

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Government, acting by and through the Nashville Department of Waste Ser is eligible to participate in this grant program; and,

WHEREAS, it is to the benefit of the citizens of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County that this grant application be approved and submitted.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That the Metropolitan Government's application for a Healthy and Sustainable Communities grant, in an amount not to exceed \$275,000 to rethink waste management, expand services available to residents, and improve related environmental and human health challenges by providing free curbside compost collection to 750 households included in the Food Scrap Pickup Program, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, is hereby approved, and the Nashville Department of Waste Services is authorized to submit said application to the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Section 2. That this resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

APPROVED AS TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:

Jenneen Reed/mjr  
Jenneen Reed, Director  
Finance Department

INTRODUCED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Member(s) of Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Hannah Beitlin  
Assistant Metropolitan Attorney



THE UNITED STATES  
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

[Mayors](#)

[The Conference](#)

[Issues](#)

[Programs](#)

[Resources](#)

[Meetings](#)

[News](#)

# Healthy and Sustainable Communities Grant Awards

The 2025 winners have been announced! Read the press release.

# About the Awards

Since 2012, the Childhood Obesity Prevention/Environmental Health and Sustainability Awards — a partnership between The United States Conference of Mayors and the American Beverage Association for a Healthy America (ABFHA) — has awarded nearly \$6 million to cities of all sizes across the country to support programs that aim to improve the health and wellness of the nation’s children, families, neighborhoods, and cities.

A total of \$1,000,000 in funding will be awarded to nine cities across three population categories: Small City (less than 75,000), Medium City (75,000-250,000), and Large City (more than 250,000).

We are pleased to announce that the program has expanded its scope, introducing a new name and increased investments for winning cities.

## Large City

1st Place: \$275,000  
2nd Place: \$100,000  
3rd Place: \$75,000

## Medium City

1st Place: \$200,000  
2nd Place: \$75,000  
3rd Place: \$50,000

## Small City

1st Place: \$150,000  
2nd Place: \$50,000  
3rd Place: \$25,000

### 2025 1st Place Winner

#### Large City (\$250K)

Mayor Sharon Tucker  
Fort Wayne, IN

[Video](#)

### 2025 1st Place Winner

#### Medium City (\$175K)

Mayor Shammas Malik  
Akron, OH

[Video](#)

### 2025 1st Place Winner

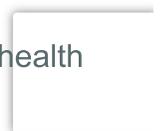
#### Small City (\$125K)

Mayor Jessica Anderson  
Chapel Hill, NC

[Video](#)

All member cities of The United States Conference of Mayors are eligible to receive this award, including service cities. Each application must include a signed letter of support from the mayor. There is no limit on the number of applications a mayor can support or submit.

This award aims to support programs that engage community members and promote or stimulate behavior change, in the categories of a) healthy communities; b) environmental health



and sustainability, or c) a hybrid of both. Types of programs eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

### Healthy Communities Initiatives

- Increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables, through the development of school and community gardens, and/or programs that support farmers' markets and/or free or low-cost fruit and vegetable distribution in affected communities
- Cooking and nutrition programs that focus on teaching how to eat better and/or how to prepare healthy meals
- Programs that encourage kids to exercise in and out of school
- Programs that empower community members to engage in educating their community in the decision-making process about issues that directly impact their health and well-being – for example, hiring and training youth advocates

### Environmental Health Sustainability Initiatives

- Strategies to encourage and improve residential recycling rates and reduce contamination
- Food waste reduction initiatives, composting, and other waste/landfill diversion programs
- Beach/waterway and other types of community clean-up initiatives
- Projects that promote water conservation
- Projects that develop parks and other open spaces
- Projects that promote alternative transportation options, such as bike paths, and/or enhance neighborhood walkability for residents

### Hybrid Programs

- Programs that include strategies to reduce childhood obesity and also address environmental health and safety concerns.

### Informative Webinars

- October 2024
- October 2021



**Application  
Preview**

**Fill out the  
Application  
Online**

**FAQs**



**Contact**

abfha-awards@usmayors.org

ABOUT US

The United States Conference of Mayors is the official non-partisan organization of cities with a population of 30,000 or larger. Each city is represented by its chief elected official, the mayor.

CONTACT US

1620 I St. NW  
Washington, D.C.  
20006  
(202) 293-7330

LATEST NEWS

> Nation's Mayors Applaud Passage of Housing Reform in Defense Bill

---

> U.S. Metro Economies 2024 GMP and Unemployment Forecast

---

> Statement by U.S. Conference of Mayors on Mayors' Escalating Safety

DOWNLOAD OUR APP

The Conference's mobile app is your best guide to the nation's mayors, the organization, and our meetings. Learn more about our app.

SEARCH



and Security  
Needs

---

> At Site of  
Oklahoma City  
Bombing,  
Bipartisan  
Mayors Sign  
Declaration  
Against Political  
Violence

---

> Nation's Mayors  
to Washington:  
Here's What We  
Need to Fight  
Crime

---



## The 2026 Healthy and Sustainable Communities Grant Awards

**1. What's the name/title of the program/initiative you're submitting for consideration?**

**\* (Please note that the name/title you provide here will be used in all promotional materials, if your program/initiative is selected to receive an award.)** Metro Nashville Food Scrap Pickup

**2. Name of city applying for the award:** Nashville

**3. State or Territory in which the city applying for the award is located: Select from the drop-menu to the right:** Tennessee

**4. Please select the population category of the city applying for the award:\***

- **Large City (population greater than 250,000)**
- Medium City (population 75,000-250,000)
- Small City (population less than 75,000)

**5. Mayor First Name:** Freddie

**6. Mayor Last Name:** O'Connell

**7. Specify whether this application is for:** (Check the appropriate box)\*

- Expansion of an Existing Program
- **Development of a New Program**

### **Mayoral Staff and Lead Application Contact Information**

**8. Mayoral Staff Contact Information**

- **First Name:** Kendra
- **Last Name:** Abkowitz
- **Email Address:** [kendra.abkowitz@nashville.gov](mailto:kendra.abkowitz@nashville.gov)
- **Telephone Number:** 615.762.6849

**9. Lead Application Contact Information**

- **First Name:** Jenn
- **Last Name:** Harrman
- **Email Address:** [jenn.harrman@nashville.gov](mailto:jenn.harrman@nashville.gov)
- **Telephone Number:** 615.880.2419

## **Community & Program Descriptions; Mayoral Letter of Support**

**10. Community Description/Statement of Need: \* Please describe and discuss the target population that will be the focus of the proposed program. Consider this essay a statement of need, essentially. Here you can talk about the population(s) your program/initiative aims to help, and why they might need that help. You may include information on:**

- **Overall community demographics and data on socio-economic status;**
- **Community health and/or environmental/sustainability data specifically for the target population(s) your proposed program/initiative will serve; and**
- **An overview of existing resources available to the target population, and how your program will supplement, complement, and/or enhance those resources.**

### **500-word maximum**

As Middle Tennessee's landfills approach capacity with few viable expansion options, Metro Nashville is taking bold action to rethink waste management, expanding services available to residents and improving related environmental and human health challenges. Recognizing the urgent need for sustainable solutions, the city adopted a Solid Waste Master Plan in 2019 that sets an ambitious goal to divert 90% of waste from landfills. This plan identifies that 33% of Nashville's residential waste is food and yard waste—a prime opportunity for diversion that is widely underutilized. Additionally, 4% of Nashville's greenhouse gas emissions come from solid waste. Metro Nashville has adopted a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 80% by 2050 from 2014 levels. Further, Metro Nashville adopted a resolution supporting municipal leadership on food waste reduction, encouraging a target of 50% reduction in food waste from 2017 levels by 2030. Combined, these ambitious waste and emission reduction goals identify food waste as a significant opportunity for reducing waste sent to landfills and greenhouse gas emissions.

Currently, the Nashville Department of Waste Services (NDWS) offers Nashville and Davidson County residents weekly curbside trash pick-up and bi-weekly curbside recycling pick-up, and the Nashville Department of Transportation offers quarterly yard waste pick-up. Metro Nashville also supports seven recycling drop-off sites throughout the city and four Convenience Centers, which offer trash, recyclable, compostable, and other waste drop-off. Throughout the city, there are currently only four publicly available locations for residents to dispose of compostables, creating a high barrier to composting. Instead, most of Nashville's compostables are thrown out with the trash, making up approximately 33% of the city's residential solid waste. In response, the NDWS launched the Food Scraps Pickup Pilot (FSPP) on October 23, 2023. This initiative provides free curbside compost collection to 750 households, marking a significant step toward a circular waste economy.

The FSPP remains in the pilot phase, focused on providing and funding continuous service for 750 households. Households were selected to ensure participation from every one of Nashville's 34 Council Districts that fall within NDWS service area, offering a strong representation of service delivery in

Nashville. 63% of participants were not composting before joining the pilot program, indicating high potential for waste diversion through the FSPP.

Middle Tennessee landfills are near residential areas, and are frequently in low-income and vulnerable communities, putting those residents' health at greater risk. By implementing a new landfill diversion program with the goal to scale, the FSPP reduces the need for landfilling and its impacts on our communities, including decreases in methane, volatile organic compounds, and particulate matter. These reductions help protect the health of people living near landfills, lowering risks of asthma, headaches, and nausea. Waste diversion at this level also marks a significant step toward a circular waste economy.

NDWS is pursuing a dedicated funding stream that would scale over time to all residents in NDWS' service area. For the next year, NDWS will continue collecting and analyzing data from the pilot, building evidence for and investment in service expansion. (499/500)

**11. Description of the Proposed Program/Initiative:\* Please describe, in detail, the program/initiative you propose to implement, should you win the award. Include the rationale for the program and any objective data or results demonstrating anticipated impact. It may be helpful to consider the answers to the following questions as you prepare your response:**

- **How will the target population(s) benefit from this program/initiative?**
- **What aspects of your program are unique/novel/innovative?**
- **Why do you believe the program will be effective?**
- **What organizations/city departments will be involved in the implementation of this program, and what will be the specific roles of those departments/organizations?**
- **What are your anticipated program/initiative outcomes, and how will you measure them?**
- **If your proposed program/initiative wins this award, how will the funds be expended?**
- **Can your program/initiative be replicated in different communities?**

**(1,000-word maximum)**

Nashville's Food Scraps Pickup Pilot (FSPP) is Tennessee's first public curbside composting program, launched in October 2023. A collaborative effort between NDWS and Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell, the program provides free curbside food scrap collection to 750 Nashville households, diverting over 430,000 pounds of food scraps since the program's inception. This innovative approach expands typical governmental waste management services while taking a significant step toward a circular waste economy and associated environmental and public health benefits. The FSPP demonstrates the feasibility of large-scale urban composting and has inspired new waste reduction

practices among participants. Its success has driven interest in program expansion, boosted local composting awareness, and supported Nashville's zero-waste goals.

Food scraps and other organic materials represent approximately one third of what Nashville residents throw away based on the most recent waste characterization study from 2018, making food waste a priority to achieve the city's waste diversion goals. Yet, implementing a large-scale organics program is easier said than done. To explore the feasibility of implementing a curbside organics program to Nashville's curbside trash and recycling services, the Nashville Department of Waste Services (NDWS) developed a pilot program that puts equity of participation at the forefront, utilizes the power of public-private partnerships, and ensures a data-driven approach to implementing a brand-new service.

When the pilot launched, NDWS received over 2,600 applications for the 750-household pilot, and it has been touted by the Mayor of Nashville for its potential to reduce waste in our landfills—over 430,000 pounds of food scraps have been collected and diverted from the landfill to date, averaging 6.6 pounds per household per week. Originally planned as a one-year pilot, the program's overwhelming success and community enthusiasm have led to its continuation beyond its initial timeframe. The FSPP not only demonstrated the feasibility of large-scale composting in an urban setting but also empowered residents to play an active role in waste reduction—bringing Nashville one step closer to a zero-waste future.

Beyond collection, NDWS has emphasized education—offering a compost facility tour, free finished compost for participants, and a “Leftovers” newsletter to deepen awareness of food waste reduction. By designing a program that is both operationally effective and educationally impactful, we've laid the foundation for a more sustainable Nashville. Additionally, the finished compost product made from our food scraps enriches local soil to improve water retention and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers. As a result, composting can have a positive impact on reducing the impacts of drought and runoff pollution, as well as improve agricultural efforts across the middle Tennessee region.

Diverting food scraps for composting addresses several key environmental issues, including waste reduction, landfill gas emissions, and soil health. By diverting food scraps, composting reduces the volume of waste sent for disposal. Waste reduction decreases the need to permit new or expanded landfills and decreases the hauling distance needed for material disposal. Overtime, these reductions result in lessened environmental and financial impacts. Based on data collected from the FSPP and the average cubic yards occupied by compacted food waste, the FSPP currently saves 225 cubic yards of landfill space annually. If expanded to NDWS's entire service area in Nashville and Davidson County, this program has the potential to save approximately 33,000 cubic yards of annual landfill space. Diverting food scraps additionally reduces the production of methane in area landfills by replacing anaerobic landfill decomposition with aerobic decomposition through composting. Using ReFED.org's Impact Calculator, the FSPP has saved 609.89 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e to date, with an average annual savings of 450.42 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e, which is the equivalent of taking 107 cars off the road annually.

NDWS has closely monitored the FSPP, regularly collecting impact data, including pounds collected, compost bin set-out rate, and compost bin contamination rate. To date, the data shows significant

community interest and broad understanding of the program. An 83% bin set out rate is remarkably high relative to NDWS's recycling bin set out rate of 44%, indicating high interest and program utility. Further, the program has a stunningly low average bin contamination rate of .25%. This rate demonstrates that program participants clearly understand the program, almost always disposing of food scraps correctly. NDWS will continue to track this data, building a case for program expansion to all households served by NDWS throughout Metro Nashville and Davidson County.

If awarded, the Healthy and Sustainable Communities Grant Award will be used to maintain service to the 750 households initially included in the FSPP pilot. Sustained data collection, demonstration of program impact, and support from a private partner (US Conference of Mayors) will build the case for support and investment in program expansion. Metro Nashville's FSPP is an innovative approach that links the Metropolitan Government to its constituents, collectively changing waste management behaviors. If fully funded, the FSPP offers the Nashville community an opportunity to divert an estimated 16,000 tons of waste from landfills annually. The program encourages residents to understand and engage in a circular waste economy, directly improving both environmental and human health. (831/1000)

**12. Mayoral Engagement \* How will your Mayor be involved with the proposed initiative? How will the Mayor promote or champion the initiative? Will the Mayor engage directly with those served by the proposed initiative and if so, how? Will the Mayor be involved in ensuring the viability of the program beyond the funding provided by this award? Please provide as many specifics as possible.**

**(250-word maximum)**

Mayor Freddie O'Connell and his administration have been involved in and supportive of the Food Scraps Pickup Pilot since he took office in September 2023. Mayor O'Connell attended the FSPP launch and has focused his administration on basic government services that make Nashville more affordable for its residents and improve their overall quality of life. This includes starting the city's first standalone solid waste department, recognizing waste services as essential and paramount for future livability. The FSPP aligns with that vision by improving waste services, decreasing the cost and burden of composting, and improving quality of life in Nashville.

Beyond words, Mayor O'Connell's administration has incorporated food scrap collection into their offices, and implemented a similar food scrap pilot in Metro Nashville Public Schools. These actions demonstrate the O'Connell administration's commitment to waste diversion. The administration will work closely with its communications team to bring visibility to this program by featuring it on social media when appropriate (see the link in Supplemental Materials for an example) and reposting program details shared by other departments. As sustained funding remains the steepest challenge to the Food Scrap Pickup Program Mayor O'Connell's administration will work closely with the NDWS to strategize appropriate funding channels. Additionally, the Mayor's Office of Advancement and Strategic Partnerships will be made available to support fund-seeking, especially from philanthropic sources.

(221/250)

**13. Please upload your Mayoral Letter of Support. (Required for submission; MUST be in PDF format.) \* The letter must be signed by the Mayor, and must be on official City letterhead.**

[Letter of Support - Food Scraps](#)

**14. Budget and Budget Narrative:\* Please provide, in a single document:**

- 1. An itemized budget for the full first-place award amount in your population category, should you win. (Refer to our awards web page for population categories and award amounts.) We understand that you can only be so specific in this instance, but do your best to give us an idea of what your spending priorities would be.**
- 2. A 500-word (or less) budget narrative that explains/justifies your priorities AND speaks to which priorities you'd focus on if you receive the second-place award amount (\$50,000).**

**This document must be in PDF format.**

[Conference of Mayors Budgets](#)

**15. Supplemental Information (Optional): Here you can share any relevant information or media that you feel will enhance your application. You may upload a single document, as a PDF, of up to 10MB in size. Please note:**

- Photos or images embedded in the file should include captions that explain their relevance to the proposed project and/or application.**
- Renderings of site plans should be identified as such. (Please indicate whether your site plan represents a site as it currently exists or as proposed to be developed should you receive an award.)**
- Links to documents, videos, or other media that live elsewhere on the internet should similarly be followed by an explanation of their relevance.**
- Additional letters of support should be on organizational letterhead and signed by an official of the organization, followed by their name and title.**

**16. Final Report Requirement:\*** Please read the passage below and, when you are ready, click on the checkbox next to the text “I understand and agree to these terms:” *As a condition of receiving these funds, all grantees/awardees will be required to complete a final report within 12 months of disbursement of funds (defined as the moment when the grantee/awardee is in receipt of the funds, irrespective of when the grantee/awardee begins the project.) This report shall, at a minimum, contain a brief description of the project as originally conceived and proposed; a discussion of outcomes anticipated, and*

*whether they were achieved; a discussion of challenges faced and how they were addressed; and a report on how funds were expended. Recommended report length is 1,000 – 1,500 words.*

**I understand and agree to these terms.**

1. Mayor O'Connell speaking at the Food Scraps Pickup Program pilot launch in October 2023.



2. Mayor O'Connell with members of the Nashville Department of Waste Services and Compost Nashville, the implementing partner for the FSPP.



3. A YouTube video that was shared on Instagram and other social media by Mayor O'Connell's office, sharing recent city-led composting projects, including the Food Scrap Pickup Program.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/5ofigb9rrt4>

4. A presentation from the Nashville Department of Waste Services offering an overview of the Food Scraps Pickup Program.

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAGyCx7kUws/ilteZONea8KZjcDGqyn1Q/view?utm\\_content=DAGyCx7kUws&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=uniqueLinks&utlId=h9bbf3b567a#1](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGyCx7kUws/ilteZONea8KZjcDGqyn1Q/view?utm_content=DAGyCx7kUws&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniqueLinks&utlId=h9bbf3b567a#1)

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**



**FREDDIE O'CONNELL**  
MAYOR

10/22/2025

Tom Cochran  
Executive Director  
The United States Conference of Mayors

RE: Healthy and Sustainable Communities Grant, Food Scraps

Dear Mr. Cochran,

I submit this letter of support for the Nashville Department of Waste Services (NDWS) application to the US Conference of Mayors' *Healthy and Sustainable Communities Grant*. Funding will support the continuation of a residential Food Scraps Pickup Program pilot. Just a month into my administration, I was excited to attend and support the launch of this pilot, and I remain eager to expand the program city-wide as resources allow.

The goal of the project is simple: collect residential food scraps weekly to divert them from the landfill. Currently, the city offers four Convenience Centers, where residents may drop off compost. Alternatively, Nashville does have a private residential composting service that constituents may pay for. However, these Convenience Centers and private offerings prove to be inaccessible to many Nashvillians due to a lack of transportation, awareness, time, and money. Instead, most Nashvillians dispose of food and yard waste in the trash, resulting in 33% of all residential trash being food waste.

Metro Waste's Food Scrap Pickup Program brings collection to residents' doorsteps, increasing the accessibility and affordability of composting. This is an example of a government service that is responsive to the needs of residents, offering significant improvement in quality of life for Nashvillians, helping them stay in the city affordably, and making our city more sustainable.

I want to make it easier for Nashvillians to stay in the city we love, and the Food Scraps Pickup Program exemplifies a small change that can make an outsized impact on residents. Thank you for considering an investment in Nashville.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Freddie O'Connell".

Freddie O'Connell, Mayor

<b>Residential Food Scraps Program</b>		
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025		
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County		
Nashville Department of Waste Services		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Description</b>
Compost Collection	\$263,250	Weekly collection for 750 households for 52 weeks
Indirect Costs	\$11,750	Staff time to monitor and analyze data
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$275,000</b>	
<b>Budget Narrative</b>		
<p>This budget focuses on program delivery, supporting free weekly curbside collection of compost from 750 households for one year. Curbside compost collection costs \$6.75 per household per week. Thus, <math>\\$6.75 \times 750 \text{ households} \times 52 \text{ weeks} = \\$263,250</math>.</p> <p>If this project is funded at a lower amount, we will decrease the number of weeks included in the budget. Indirect costs support critical data monitoring and analyzing activities overseen by the Metro Department of Waste Services.</p>		

**APPLICATION FOR Sustainable and Healthy Communities-Residential  
Food Scraps26-27**

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**

*Tracey Thurman*

Director  
Department of Waste Services

10/22/25

Date