

April 10, 2025

Commissioner Melissa P. Dunn

City of Lauderhill, FL

Dear Commissioner Dunn,

We are delighted to inform you that the City of Lauderhill has been selected by the National League of Cities (NLC) to participate in the *Southern Cities Economic Initiative (SCEI)*! Your city is one of twenty cities selected for the initial six-month planning phase of SCEI. The other cities selected to participate in this project are Morrisville, NC, Harrisonburg, VA, Jacksonville, FL, Canton, GA, Jonesboro, GA, Jackson, MS, Thomasville, NC, Little Rock, AR, Greenville, MS, New Orleans, LA, Pensacola, FL, Nashville, TN, Natchitoches, LA, Monroe, LA, Fayetteville, AR, Charlottesville, VA, Atlanta, GA, Sunflower Co Collab, MS, and Center Point, AL.

We are excited to partner with you in designing and executing local economic strategies that boost economic mobility and resilience for residents and businesses.

The project includes two phases: A planning phase will run from April 24, 2025, through October 31, 2025. At the end of the planning phase your city will be invited to apply to participate in a two-year implementation phase with additional grant funding beginning in January 2026.

NLC is implementing this project in collaboration with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, and the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

This letter and its attachments describe important next steps and a set of key documents that require your attention. Please review these details carefully.

Memorandum of Understanding: A memorandum of understanding (MOU) (attached) must be signed and returned to NLC **by May 5, 2025**. If you require additional time to complete and return the signed document to NLC, please reach out to Rosanna Mulcahy at mulcahy@nlc.org.

Grant disbursement: To facilitate the distribution of your \$15,000 planning grant, we require your signed **MOU** along with the completed **ACH form** and **W-9** attached to this email. Please

ensure these documents are returned to us as soon as possible to avoid delays in processing your grant.

Orientation call for city teams: Over the next few months, NLC will host several learning opportunities for participating cities to come together as peers to reflect on goals and strategies. The first orientation call is scheduled for **April 24, 2025, at 1:00PM Eastern Time**. NLC will follow up soon with your city's team lead to provide more details, including a zoom link for the meeting and a project timeline. We look forward to meeting you and other members of your team on this call.

Media strategy: We encourage you to announce your city's selection in the SCEI project publicly. NLC has created a comprehensive **Communications Toolkit** (attached) which includes a sample press release and ready-to-use social media posts to help you effectively share your participation and align your message with NLC's communications strategy. We ask you to **please hold off on any media announcements until NLC's public release date of April 24, 2025**. Coordinating our announcements on this date will amplify our impact and maximize media attention.

Thank you for your attention to these next steps. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions about the project or any of the materials in your welcome packet by contacting Rosanna Mulcahy, Program Manager of Economic Opportunity and Financial Empowerment at mulcahy@nlc.org.

Congratulations on your selection for SCEI! We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Heidi Goldberg

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi Goldberg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Director, Economic Opportunity and Financial Empowerment