

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES' YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND PROGRAM

BACKGROUND:

The [Youth Climate Action Fund](#) is a program administered by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Johns Hopkins University, United Cities and Local Governments, and C40 Cities. The competitive, global program provides successful local governments \$50,000 and technical assistance to launch open innovation competitions and mobilize young people ages 15-24 to design, develop, and implement solutions that meet pressing local needs aligned to city climate goals. If the initial \$50,000 is committed by selected cities within one year, the municipality is eligible for an additional \$50,000 for a potential total funding of \$100,000.

In the first program application round, 100 cities, including Dubuque, IA, were selected. **The organization has now opened a second round of applications for funding and is accepting applications through January 23, 2026. There is no local match required to participate in the program.** However, the City is required to submit a signed mayoral pledge along with the application (Attachment A).

Cities selected for this program are expected to design and deliver a local program that includes:

- The mayor launching a public open call for youth-led climate project proposals that align with the city's climate strategy;
- Establishing an independent committee to review and select microgrant proposals;
- Awarding microgrants and providing support for selected youth-led projects;
- Sharing results and building enthusiasm publicly through community events and communications channels, tracking progress, and collecting outcome data.

If selected, the Sustainability Coordinator will work with other City staff to coordinate the program, oversee project delivery, and serve as the main liaison with program partners.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize staff to participate and apply for the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Youth Climate Action Fund program for up to \$100,000.
2. Do not authorize staff to apply for or participate in Bloomberg Philanthropies' Youth Climate Action Fund program.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Local youth have already signaled motivation to participate in local climate efforts through various partnerships, including the City's Climate Action Grants. Participation in this program would provide the City additional resources to engage young people

(ages 15-24) in sustainability education and practices. This effort aligns and supports the goals of the accepted Climate Action Plan. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Attachment A_YCAF-Mayor's-Pledge.pdf](#)