

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 30, 2013

Econsult Solutions, Inc. (ESI) completed a “kitchen accelerator feasibility study” for the Corporation for Findlay Market in Cincinnati. A kitchen accelerator (or incubator) is a shared-use commercial kitchen facility where culinary entrepreneurs can rent licensed kitchen space and receive business assistance services. Cincinnati currently lacks this type of shared-use kitchen facility.

The project was headed by ESI Senior Advisor, Gregory Heller, who specializes in food economy projects, and has worked on other kitchen incubators. ESI has carried-out substantial national research relating to the operations of kitchen incubators/accelerators.

The Cincinnati study was supported by the Haile/U.S. Bank Foundation, and ESI worked closely with the Corporation for Findlay Market’s President and CEO, Joe Hansbauer.

“We always thought that the kitchen incubator was a ‘good idea,’ but we would have never been able to get to this point without Greg Heller’s help,” Hansbauer said. “Working with him helped us organize the process, accelerate it, and has left us with a specific and actionable plan to push the concept forward. We were very glad to see that a kitchen incubator is not only feasible in Cincinnati, but, in fact, it fills a real need locally.”

ESI concluded that Cincinnati can support a kitchen accelerator, and that there appears to be substantial unmet demand for such a project, as well as significant interest and enthusiasm from entrepreneurs and other stakeholders. Further, a kitchen accelerator appears to be badly needed in Cincinnati, and could fill an important void in efforts to develop the local food economy, empower micro-entrepreneurs, and support new jobs.

After establishing that there appears to be demand, need, and the right environment and partners to launch a successful project, ESI synthesized local research, national best practices, and data from a potential-user survey to create a model kitchen accelerator that could serve local need while financially sustaining its operations without ongoing subsidy. The final section of the report laid out a detailed blueprint for implementation.

According to Heller, “This was a very exciting project. Cincinnati has a fantastic local food scene, with dozens of entrepreneurs who could benefit from a kitchen accelerator. Findlay Market is truly a leader in its work to advance Cincinnati’s local food economy and should be commended for pursuing this study.”

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This study is the latest completed project in ESI's robust portfolio of food economy initiatives. Other related projects include a report on diversifying farmers markets for Partners for Public Spaces; branding/marketing study for Griggstown Farm, near Princeton, NJ; project management of the Baltimore Food Hub; retail vision, survey, and study in Chester, PA; a commercial corridors assessment in Philadelphia; and a new engagement on economic analysis of Detroit's food system.

**About Econsult Solutions, Inc.**

Econsult Solutions, Inc. is a Philadelphia-based economic consulting firm that provides businesses and public policy makers with economic consulting services in urban economics, real estate economics, transportation, public infrastructure, development, public policy and finance, community and neighborhood development, planning, as well as expert witness services for litigation support.

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