



County of Humboldt

Project Trellis Local Equity Program V.1.0

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)



Purpose

The Project Trellis Local Equity Program’s (“Program”) goal is to implement the recommendations set forth in the Humboldt County Cannabis Equity Assessment (2019) (“Equity Assessment”). Pursuant to the Equity Assessment, certain populations and neighborhoods, particularly small growers, and those affected by past policies, while participating in the cannabis industry, were negatively impacted. The Program implements the State of California and County of Humboldt’s legislative goals to further equity among those impacted by the criminalization of cannabis.

Program Year

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Application Deadline

Submission deadline for all applications is 5pm PST on Friday, March 19, 2021. Applications will be available online at <http://gohumco.org/236/Project-Trellis-Equity> at 8am PST on Friday, January 29, 2021. Hard copies are available upon request by contacting Peggy Murphy at (707) 599-0125. Details of the application process are below in the Application Process section.

Governance

The Program is governed by the County of Humboldt’s Ordinance 2623, Resolution 19-23 and 19-24, applicable guidelines of the Bureau of Cannabis Control (“BCC”), the California Cannabis Equity Act of 2018, and the Budget Act of 2019, Item 1111-490 Reappropriation, and other applicable local and state laws and regulations.

Estimated Program Funding

\$1,204,814.82. The County of Humboldt Office of Economic Development is administering the Local Equity Program Version 1.0 through grants received from the BCC. The total allocation from the BCC for this round of equity grants is \$1,204,814.82. Grant funds will be used to supply services to those meeting eligibility criteria, as defined in the Humboldt County Local Equity Program Manual (2019) (“Manual”). Eligible equity applicants may qualify to apply for up to \$10,000 per service, unless otherwise stated.



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Funding Eligibility

As defined by the Manual, to be eligible for funding, applicants must meet one of the following primary qualifications to become eligible for consideration for LEP funding and services:

- a. Any individual and/or entity that has obtained or applied for a permit (either temporary or permanent), and the permit is for a business located in an area in Humboldt County with a poverty rate of 17% or above.
- b. Have engaged in or are currently engaged in small-scale cultivation of cannabis on property in Humboldt County owned, leased, or with the express permission of the owner, with a cultivation area less than 10,000 square feet;
- c. Any woman, person of color, or LGBTQ individual who has or worked in, or currently works in the cannabis industry in Humboldt County;
- d. Any individual who has obtained or applied for a cannabis permit in Humboldt County, or who has worked in or currently works in the cannabis industry, and was arrested and/or convicted of a non-violent cannabis-related offense, or was subject to asset forfeiture arising from a cannabis-related event;
- e. Are a person who experienced sexual assault, exploitation, domestic violence, and/or human trafficking while participating in the cannabis industry.
- f. Have become homeless or suffered a loss of housing as a result of marijuana enforcement.

For those who do not meet the primary qualifications set forth above, applicants may still become eligible for consideration for funding and services if they meet THREE of the following alternative qualifications:

- a. Are one of the following:
 - i. An individual permitted for, seeking a permit for or employment in a Humboldt County permitted cannabis business;
 - ii. A board member of a non-profit cannabis business;
 - iii. Have a membership interest in a cannabis business formed as a cooperative per B&P Code section 26220 - 26231.2.
- b. Have resided in Humboldt County for at least five years during the period 1971 – 2016;
- c. Have obtained or applied for, or intend to apply for, a permit or zoning clearance for commercial cannabis activities in Humboldt County;
- d. Have lived within a 5-mile radius of the location of raids conducted by the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (“CAMP”) program;
- e. Household income below the California poverty level;
- f. Have a parent, sibling or child who was arrested for or convicted of the sale, possession, use, manufacture or cultivation of cannabis (including as a juvenile);



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- g. Can reasonably demonstrate that, on the basis of equity, applicant was adversely impacted as a result of the criminalization of cannabis (i.e. the War on Drugs).

Equity Services Available

Program services and grants may include:

1. Tiered fees or waiver of fees for Application Assistance Meetings of up to four hours with the Cannabis Services Division of the Department of Planning and Building;
2. Cannabis and Small Business Development Assistance from the Economic Development Division, including business planning, loan application preparation, site location services, human resource management, capital procurement services, bookkeeping and accounting practices and systems, etc.;
3. Deferral of payment of Application Fees for Cannabis Activity Zoning Clearance Certificates or Special Permit or Use Permit for a period not to exceed three (3) years;
4. Technical Assistance for the formation and administration of Road Maintenance Associations for public and private road networks providing access to cannabis activity operations by eligible cannabis equity program applicants or licensees, where such road networks may adversely impact watersheds providing habitat for threatened or endangered species;
5. Waiver or deferral of fees for training and certification by the Agricultural Commissioner's office for Weights and Measures and Pesticide Applicators requirements or certification of scales used in cannabis licensed businesses in Humboldt County;
6. Technical Assistance for the formation of Cannabis Cooperative Associations as defined and governed by California Business and Professions Code sections 26220 - 26231.2, the majority membership of which is comprised of Program applicants or licensees.
7. Grants for purposes of assuring compliance with regulatory requirements of local or state permits or licenses that mitigate adverse environmental effects of cannabis cultivation or other activities including, but not limited to:
 - a. Water storage for irrigation during forbearance periods of surface water diversion required by state or local regulations;
 - b. Remediation and relocation of cannabis facilities located within streamside setbacks required by state or local regulation;
 - c. Installation of solar electrical systems to replace diesel or gasoline generator power for off-grid cannabis facilities where connecting to the grid is economically infeasible.



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8. Employment skill training for eligible applicants employed or seeking employment in licensed cannabis operations in Humboldt County

Application Process

Apply online (Preferred): If possible, please apply via the online application form. Applications should be submitted electronically. Applications are to be submitted electronically using the online application form, via the Apply Online button found at:

<http://gohumco.org/236/Project-Trellis-Equity>. Electronic attachment formats accepted are: PDF, JPEG, or PNG.

Apply via email: In the case that an applicant is unable to use the online application form a PDF download of the application is available via the online application platform. The completed application can be returned via email, including all required attachments, to pmurphy@co.humboldt.ca.us.

Apply via hard copy: In the case that an equity applicant does not have the ability or access to apply online, hard copies will be accepted. A hard copy can be requested by contacting Peggy Murphy at (707) 599-0125. Hard copies can be mailed or delivered to the County of Humboldt County Administrative Office's Office of Economic Development, Attn: Peggy Murphy, 520 E Street, Eureka, CA 95501.

Only complete applications, including all required attachments, received or postmarked no later than 5pm, Friday, March 19, will be considered.

Applications may be subject to public disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act.

Award Selection

All applications and supporting documents will be reviewed by County of Humboldt Economic Development Staff to ensure applicant meets eligibility criteria. Some projects may receive a lower amount than was requested, based on availability of funds, or needs of services. A typical approval process can take 60 or more days from the time of application. Upon approval the applicant will receive a notice of award, contract, fund request form, and W9 form.

Submission of an application in no way obligates the County of Humboldt to award a grant and the County of Humboldt reserves the right to reject any or all applications, wholly or in part, at any time, without penalty.



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For More Information

For further information, updates, and application forms for the County of Humboldt Local Equity Grant or the other programs of Project Trellis, please visit our website at <http://gohumco.org/236/Project-Trellis-Overview>. With specific questions about applications contact Peggy Murphy via email at pmurphy@co.humboldt.ca.us, or call (707) 599-0125.

The County of Humboldt is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) requirements and guidelines. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.