



# County of Humboldt

## Project Trellis Local Equity Program V2.0

### Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)



#### **Purpose**

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The Project Trellis Local Equity Program’s (“Program”) goal is to implement the recommendations set forth in the Humboldt County Cannabis Equity Assessment (“Equity Assessment”). Pursuant to the Equity Assessment, certain populations and neighborhoods, particularly small growers, and those effected 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**

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Fiscal Year 2021-2022

#### **Application Deadline**

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Submission deadline for all applications is 5pm PST on Friday, September 17, 2021.

Applications will be available online at <http://gohumco.org/236/Project-Trellis-Equity> at 8am PST on Monday, August 16, 2021. Hard copies are available upon request by contacting Project Trellis at (707) 445-7745. Details of the application process are below in the Application Process section.

#### **Governance**

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The Program is governed by the County of Humboldt’s Ordinance 2623, Resolution 19-23 and 19-24, applicable guidelines of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (“GO-Biz”) and the California Cannabis Equity Act of 2018 (SB1294), and other applicable local and state laws and regulations.

#### **Estimated Program Funding**

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\$2,213,622.92. The County of Humboldt Office of Economic Development is administering the Local Equity Program Version 2.0 through grants received from GO-Biz. The total allocation from GO-Biz for this round of equity grants is \$2,213,622.92. Grant funds will be used to supply services to those meeting eligibility criteria, as defined in the Humboldt County Local Equity Program Manual (“Manual”). Eligible equity applicants may qualify to apply for up to \$10,000 per service, unless otherwise stated.



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**Funding Eligibility**

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As defined by the Manual, to be eligible for funding, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- a. The individual's household income is at, or below, the median income level based on [2020 Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) Income Limits \(ILs\) for Humboldt County.](#)
- b. The applicant is a Humboldt County resident.
- c. The applicant is a shareholder or has at least 20% ownership interest in a cannabis business, such as cultivation, distribution, manufacturing, retail, testing, laboratory, or micro-business.

Additionally, applicants must meet one of the following primary qualifications to become eligible for consideration for LEP funding and services:

- a. The applicant has obtained or applied for a cannabis cultivation, distribution, manufacturing, retail, or other cannabis-related permit (either interim or permanent), and the permit is for a business located in a community defined by Humboldt County as having a poverty rate of 17% or above.
- b. The applicant has engaged in or currently engages 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 10,000 square feet, or less.
- c. The applicant is a woman, person of color, or LGBTQ individual who has worked or currently works in the cannabis industry.
- d. The applicant has obtained or applied for a cannabis permit, or who has worked in or currently works in the cannabis industry, in Humboldt County, 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. The applicant experienced sexual assault, exploitation, domestic violence, and/or human trafficking as a result of participating in the cannabis industry.
- f. The applicant was or is 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. The applicant is one of the following:
  - i. An individual permitted for, or seeking a permit for, a Humboldt County cannabis business; or



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- ii. A board member of a non-profit cannabis business which is located, or has 75% or more of operations occurring, in Humboldt County; or
- iii. An individual with a membership interest in an incorporated cooperative, such as an Agricultural Cooperative established pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 26220 - 26231.2, which is located, or which has 75% or more of operations, in Humboldt County.
- b. The applicant is seeking entry into the legal cannabis industry and has resided in Humboldt County for at least five years during the period 1971–2016;
- c. The applicant is seeking support or services to aid in entering the cannabis industry with a household income below the very low income level based on the 2020 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Income Limits (ILs) for Humboldt County;
- d. The applicant is seeking support or services to aid in entering the cannabis industry in Humboldt County, with 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);
- e. The applicant is seeking support or services to aid in entering the cannabis industry in Humboldt County and 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**

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Program services and grants may include:

1. Direct payment on the applicant’s behalf of fees for Application Assistance Meetings for cannabis related permits, with the County of Humboldt Cannabis Services Division of the Department of Planning and Building.
2. Direct payment on the applicant’s behalf of deposits and permitting fees for Humboldt County Cannabis Activity Zoning Clearance Certificate, Special Permit, Conditional Use Permit, or Coastal Development Permit. a. Water storage for irrigation during forbearance periods of surface water diversion
3. Direct payment on the applicant’s behalf of fees by the County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office for Weights and Measures, for sealing and annual registration of scales used in cannabis licensed businesses, or fees associate with Pesticide Applicator requirements.
4. Direct grants to applicants of up to \$10000 toward the equity applicant or equity licensee’s annual fees and applicant or licensee’s contribution toward RMA work for a Humboldt County 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.



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5. Direct payment on the applicant's behalf of fees to agencies and/or professionals offering technical assistance for the formation of an incorporated cooperative, such as an Agricultural Cooperative or Cannabis Cooperative Association pursuant to California Business and Professions Code sections 26220 -26231.2, with majority membership comprised of Humboldt County cannabis permit applicants or licensees.
6. Direct grants to applicants, not to exceed \$10,000 per grant, for purposes of assuring compliance with regulatory requirements of the County or California permits or licenses, mitigating adverse environmental effects, or ensuring financial solvency, 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.
  - d. Rent for facilities where the above activity is occurring with documented consent of facility owner(s) of the cannabis cultivation and related activities.
7. Direct payment on the applicant's behalf of fees to agencies and/or professionals who offer cannabis small business development assistance, including but not limited to business planning, loan application preparation, site location services, human resource management, capital procurement services, bookkeeping and accounting practices and systems, for Humboldt County-based cannabis businesses.
8. Direct payment on the applicant's behalf of fees for employment skill training for eligible equity participants and employees of their licensed cannabis operations in Humboldt County.
9. Expungement services, as handled by the District Attorney's office, for cannabis-related convictions if eligible. Economic Development staff will assist applicants seeking information about expungement of cannabis-related convictions, and direct them to the District Attorney's Office for expedited review.

### **Application Process**

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Apply online (Preferred): If possible, please apply via the online application form. Applications should be submitted electronically. Applications are to be submitted electronically via the online application form found at: [/FormCenter/Project-Trellis-Local-Equity-Program-4/Project-Trellis-Local-Equity-Program-V20-51](#). Electronic attachment formats accept are: PDF, JPEG, of PNG.



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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 [ProjectTrellis@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:ProjectTrellis@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 Project Trellis at (707) 445-7745. Hard copies can be mailed or delivered to the County of Humboldt County Administrative Office's Office of Economic Development, Attn: Project Trellis, 825 5th Street #112, Eureka, CA 95501.

Only complete applications, including all required attachments, received or postmarked no later than 5pm, Friday, September 17, 2021 will be considered.

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

#### **Award Selection**

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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.

#### **For More Information**

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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 Project Trellis via email at [ProjectTrellis@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:ProjectTrellis@co.humboldt.ca.us), or call (707) 445-7745.

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.