

Mendocino Cannabis Program

Submitted, January 25, 2022

To receive updates and information related to programs implemented by the Mendocino Cannabis Program (MCP) please sign up for notifications from the County's e-notification system (<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/enotification>) select Canna Notes, in the News section.

Cannabis Permit Portal Update

The MCP has completed the review of all 990 portal application submissions and is working with County Counsel and outside counsel to determine next steps for those with incomplete submissions. Once staff has completed this process with counsel we will provide an update to the public, agents, and applicants. The MCP intends to provide a minimum of 30-day notice to those who are eligible to correct deficiencies via the 30-day corrections portal.

MCP Staffing Update

The program has interviewed for planner I, planner II, chief planner, admin assistant, staff assistant, department analyst, office services supervisor, and program administrator. During the first round of interviews the program hired 1 – planner I, 1 – staff assistant, and 1 – program administrator all of whom on boarded with the program in November and December 2021. The program opened a second recruitment period for planner techs, planner I, planner II, senior planner, chief planner, staff assistant, admin assistant, department analyst, office services supervisor, and program manager.

The program currently has 6 – planner tech, planner I/II positions, 1 – planner cartographer, 1 – staff assistant, 1 – admin assistant, 1 – department analyst, 1 – office services supervisor, 1 - senior planner, 1 – chief planner, and 1 – program manager position available that we are currently interviewing for. Additionally, the MCP is working to complete a Request for Proposal (RFQ) seeking qualified contract planners to temporarily assist with the review and processing of applications and appendix g CEQA checklists.

MCP Public Meeting

Please save the date and join MCP staff for a program update meeting, **on February 9, 2022, from 3:30 – 5:00**. Registration will be required and time will be made available for Q&A. To ensure you receive the registration information please sign up for the County's Canna Notes, email notification system.

Local Equity Entrepreneur Program (LEEP) Update

On the third Wednesday of each month, the MCP and Elevate Impact Mendocino host a monthly LEEP informational meeting. LEEP meetings are open to all members of the

public and registration is required. The next **LEEP meeting will be held on February 16, 2022, from 3:30 – 5:00 pm PT.**

Monthly LEEP meetings are noticed using the Canna Notes email notification system. For more information about the LEEP grant program, including the criteria for the program and ability to apply for the Equity Grant Program, visit: ElevateImpactMendo.com

The following is a brief LEEP development and implementation timeline.

February 25, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approves the Mendocino County Cannabis Equity Assessment; Adopts Resolution establishing the Mendocino county Local Equity Program and Program Manual and authorizes Chair to sign same; authorizes the Chief Executive Officer or designee to revise as deemed appropriate and submit a grant application to the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development for purposes of funding the Mendocino County Local Equity Program; and allocate one hundred thousand dollars of Cannabis Business Tax in FY 2020/2021 as a Grant Match upon Grant Award.

October 13, 2020, the Board of Supervisors accepts presentation, adopts Resolution approving a revised Mendocino County Local Equity Program Manual and authorizing the CEO to execute the grant agreement and related documents including extensions or amendments; authorizes Chair to sign same.

November 17, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approves Agreement with 4Front Partners (DBA Elevate Impact Mendocino) in an amount not to exceed \$211,565 for the Cannabis Equity Grant Administrative Services, with a contract term through August 21, 2021; and authorizes the Chair to sign the same.

December 14, 2020, the first complete local equity eligibility application is submitted to the Elevate Impact Mendocino.

January 26, 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopts resolution authorizing the chief executive officer or designee to submit a grant application and agreement to the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development for the cannabis equity grants program for local jurisdictions fiscal year 2020/2021 for an amount up to \$5 million dollars for purposes of funding the Mendocino County Local Equity Program for an additional year, and approving the reallocation of \$5,000 from the cannabis program budget as a grant match investment to Mendocino county's cannabis Local Equity Program.

April 14 & 28, 2021, the MCP and Elevate Impact Mendocino host a County of Mendocino LEEP workshop.

June 2, 2021, the County of Mendocino launches the ElevateImpactMendo.com website with electronic eligibility applications, fee waiver application, direct grant application, and technical assistance application.

July 13, 2021 Program Statistics:

LEEP Statistics	Eligibility	Direct Grant	Fee Waiver	Technical Assistance	Total LEEP Applications
Approved Applications	11	0	0	0	11
Completed Applications	11	0	0	0	11
In Underwriting	13	0	0	0	13
Ineligible/Abandoned	3	0	0	0	3
Total LEEP Applications	26	0	0	0	26

July 20, 2021, the Board of Supervisors directs staff to amend the County of Mendocino Equity Program, increasing the income threshold associated with the grant program's eligibility criteria to the "moderate income level", work with the contracted Grant Administrator to simplify the grant applications, and increase the amount of grant funding available through the direct grant program to \$40,000; and directs the Cannabis Program to report back in September.

August 12, 2021, MCP and Elevate Impact Mendocino host County of Mendocino Equity Workshop

September 8, 2021 Program Statistics:

LEEP Statistics	Eligibility	Direct Grant	Fee Waiver	Technical Assistance	Total LEEP Applications
Approved Applications	23	0	0	3	26
Completed Applications	23	2	2	3	30
In Underwriting	26	7	9	4	46
Ineligible/Abandoned	3	0	0	0	3
Total LEEP Applications	52	9	11	7	79

September 23, 2021, the MCP and Elevate Impact Mendocino host County of Mendocino LEEP Workshop.

October 5, 2021, the Board of Supervisors directs staff to amend the County of Mendocino Cannabis Equity Program including but not limited to 1) eliminating the income threshold associated with the grant program's eligibility criteria, 2) allowing direct grant funds to be dispersed in a single tranche, 3) expanding the direct grant criteria to reflect the criteria outlined in statute, 4) authorizing and directing the Cannabis Program Manager (Director) to execute grant agreements with eligible equity awardees on behalf of the County; directs staff to collect taxes due and prioritize grants to those who are up to date on tax filings and payments; and directs

staff give preference to current eligibility applicants and/or eligibility awardees because of the more stringent income requirements.

October 27, 2021, the MCP and Elevate Impact Mendocino host County of Mendocino LEEP workshop. Program Statistics:

LEEP Statistics	Eligibility	Direct Grant	Fee Waiver	Technical Assistance	Total LEEP Applications
Approved Applications	30	0	0	6	36
Completed Applications	30	7	5	6	48
In Underwriting	40	9	12	6	67
Ineligible/Abandoned	3	0	0	0	3
Total LEEP Applications	73	16	17	12	118

December 12, 2021, the MCP and Elevate Impact Mendocino host County of Mendocino LEEP workshop. Program Statistics:

LEEP Statistics	Eligibility	Direct Grant	Fee Waiver	Technical Assistance	Total LEEP Applications
Approved Applications	71	0	3	9	83
Completed Applications	71	14	7	9	101
In Underwriting	72	29	29	20	150
Ineligible/Abandoned	4	0	1	0	5
Total LEEP Applications	147	43	37	29	256

January 19, 2022, the MCP and Elevate Impact Mendocino host County of Mendocino LEEP workshop. Current Program Statistics:

LEEP Statistics	Eligibility	Direct Grant	Fee Waiver	Technical Assistance	Total LEEP Applications
Approved Applications	91	5	3	9	100
Completed Applications	91	19	8	9	127
In Underwriting	69	43	43	25	180
Ineligible/Abandoned	5	1	1	0	7
Total LEEP Applications	165	63	52	34	314

Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program (LJAGP) Update

The Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) has awarded nearly \$100 million in grant funding through the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program (LJAGP). The program, proposed by Governor Newsom in the 2021-2022 budget and passed by the Legislature, provides funding for local jurisdictions to aid in more swiftly transitioning high numbers of provisional cannabis licenses into annual licenses.

On December 24, 2021 the County of Mendocino was awarded \$17,586,406.61, in LJAGP funding, effective January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. Details about how the funding will be used can be found in the LJAGP Grant Agreement, attached to this report. The MCP looks forward to developing the LJAGP direct grant program with the community and invites the public to join a **LJAGP development meeting from 3:30 – 5:00, on Wednesday, February 23, 2022.**