

Dear Supervisors;

I am writing regarding agenda item 4f. My experience with the Mendocino County cannabis program to date has been abysmal. I will spare beating the dead horse, as you are all well aware of issues to date. My hope is that the LEEP grant program will be a success, but I am not getting a warm fuzzy feeling about that at this time.

November 30, 2022 I received a letter stating my Mendocino LEEP Certification Approval. In this letter I was assigned an underwriter who would be reaching out to me helping to get the grant process going. I have never heard from the underwriter and have been reaching out to Elevate, the Equity Grant manager, to get help understanding what they want. last Saturday I finally heard from a person who had no record of my grant application, but was at least willing to look at a draft budget, although she did not answer any of the many questions that I have. I have reached out to others who are going through process and have been given lots of advice, much of it conflicting.

The grant application is due on February 1, 2022. I have no idea if my application has been received, or what is supposed to accompany it. After spending a few hundred thousand dollars on legalization, if I don't get this grant, it is going to be very difficult to remain in the Mendocino County legal cannabis program. I would recommend that you heed the advice of the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance as they have a finger on the pulse of the local cannabis community.

Art Harwood