



Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

February 23, 2020

Agenda Item 5f: Discussion and Possible Action Including Approval of the Mendocino County Cannabis Equity Assessment; Adoption of Resolution Establishing the Mendocino County Local Equity Program and Local Equity Program Manual; Authorization for the County Chief Executive Officer or Designee to 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 Allocation of One-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) of Cannabis Business Tax in Fiscal Year 2020-21 as a Grant Match Upon Grant Award
(Sponsor: Executive Office)

Recommended Action: Approve the Mendocino County Cannabis Equity Assessment; Adopt Resolution establishing the Mendocino County Local Equity Program and Program Manual and authorize Chair to sign same; authorize the Chief Executive Officer or designee to 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 (\$100,000) of Cannabis Business Tax in FY 2020-21 as a Grant Match Upon Grant Award.

MCA greatly appreciates the heroic efforts of California Center for Rural Policy (CCRP) and we were honored to provide information for the assessment in such a short period of time. MCA is committed to further work with CCRP, Origins Council, and other partners to continue documenting the complex impacts of the War on Drugs in our community; these stories will continue to inform the Equity Program, the Cannabis Program, and forthcoming programs.

We are in full support of the County's application to the State for funding the Local Equity Program. Given that MCA has direct, on-going contact with the cannabis community, we offer these additional considerations:

1. Expand Program eligibility: To the extent that the Assessment presents potential eligibility requirements, we recommend extending the window of impact regarding certain items. For example, the Assessment (page 48) suggests the following criteria:

- a. Have been arrested for or convicted of the sale, possession, use, manufacture or cultivation of cannabis (including as a juvenile), or been subject to asset forfeiture between 1971 and 2015;
 - b. Have a parent, sibling or child who was arrested for or convicted of the sale, possession, use, manufacture or cultivation of cannabis between 1971 and 2015;
 - c. Have lived within a five mile radius of the location of raids conducted by CAMP during 1971-2016.
2. Expand the dates from 2015 to the end of 2019 and broaden the list of agencies that conducted the raids to include all multijurisdictional eradication and enforcement programs (not only CAMP). There are people who were subject to a restitution program, or probation or parole term which prevented them from entering licensing programs after 2015. Additionally, paramilitary style raids continued to impact residents as recently as last year.
3. Broaden the recommendations in Finding #4 (page 50 of Equity Assessment) to address specific barriers (Financial, Administrative/Technical, Business Acumen, and Distrust of Government) to include:
 - a) Financial: Provide grants, and low-cost or no-cost loans to assist applicants with permit fees, CDFW and Water Board requirements; funding to attend required training such as OSHA, METRC, and other employer-related requirements.
 - b) Admin/Technical: Technical assistance in applying for licenses, LSAAs; implement METRC and comply with employer-related requirements.
 - c) Business Acumen: Include the above-mentioned employer-related assistance as well as other business forms and reporting requirements.
 - d) Distrust of Government: Conduct outreach and education efforts and support coordination between federal and local enforcement efforts to prevent legally permitted and licensed operations from negative impact during law enforcement activities; conduct outreach and education for inclusion of Native people for cannabis opportunities on tribal and/or non-tribal lands through coordination with local tribal authorities.
4. Broaden the Technical Assistance Item 4 in the LEP (page 2) regarding access roads. It should not be limited to creation of Road Associations but should include assistance and funding for compliance with CDFW, Water Board, and local regulations related to protection of and impact on sensitive habitat and species.
5. MCA recommends that the Local Equity Program (LEP) reference additional qualified organizations that may provide services and that the County require the use of local organizations with expertise and a history of working with the population the LEP seeks to benefit.

Thank you for prioritizing this funding application. MCA was happy to put its efforts and resources into assisting with the preparation of the assessment and looks forward to continuing to be a good partner in the development of the LEP.

Sincerely,

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance