



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

Cannabis Compliance Division

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Trisha Tillotson
Community Development Agency Director

Matt Kelley
Code & Cannabis Compliance Director

**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo**

MEETING DATE: November 7, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Matt Kelley, Code & Cannabis Compliance Director

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting award of the California Department of Cannabis Control Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grant in the amount of \$275,000.00.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution approving the acceptance of California Department of Cannabis Control Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grant in the amount of \$275,000.00.

FUNDING: The County of Nevada has been awarded \$275,000.00 from the California Department of Cannabis Control (DCC).

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution approving the California Department of Cannabis Control, Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grant in the amount of \$275,000.00.
- California Department of Cannabis Control, Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grant Award Letter and Permitting Plan.
- California Department of Cannabis Control, Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grant Fund Budget.

BACKGROUND: On March 10, 2023, the Department of Cannabis Control Released their competitive grant guidelines for the Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grant with an April 28, 2023, submittal date. Twenty million dollars was available through the grant process in two phases. Phase I for the development and implementation of cannabis retailer license programs and Phase II offering additional funding once a local jurisdiction issues a cannabis retailer permit.

At their regular meeting, of April 18, 2023, the Board of Supervisors authorized application for the California Department of Cannabis Control Retail Access Grant in the amount of up to \$320,500.11 as included in Resolution No. 23-152. The County was notified on June 20, 2023, that funds were awarded in the amount of \$275,000.00 and shall be expended by the grant term expiration date of June 30, 2026.

As included in the grant, the grant program provides reliable consumer access to regulated, tested cannabis in the legal market, and reduces demand in the illicit market. By supporting local jurisdictions in establishing cannabis retail licensing programs, the Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grant, seeks to reduce the size of the illicit market and establish sufficient cannabis retail stores statewide to meet existing consumer demand.

Once the funds are accepted, the Community Development Agency will utilize \$200,000.00 of the funds for: 1.) County Staff time in the development of proposed ordinance amendments to the Nevada County Cannabis Ordinance, as directed by the Board of Supervisors during the January 25 – 27, 2023 Board Workshop. 2.) Consultants to assist with engaging stakeholders for public workshops could also be utilized as part of the grant funds. 3.) Preparation of a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study or Environmental Impact Report Addendum analysis for the ordinance amendments. 4.) Creation of a proposed retail licensing equity program which could provide potential technical or financial assistance with County or State license applications, compliance training or financial assistance for County Permit applications.

\$75,000 from Phase I Equity Bonus funds from the California Department of Cannabis Control, will be used to assist local equity applicants and licensees, though the County's local equity program for commercial cannabis activities as described in the grant guidelines. The additional resources the funding provides would support the cannabis local equity program and assist qualified individuals to successfully operate in the regulated state and local cannabis retailer market.

Item Initiated By: Matt Kelley, Code & Cannabis Compliance Director

Approved By: Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director

Submitted: October 23, 2023