



**COUNTY OF NEVADA**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
950 MAIDU AVENUE, P.O. BOX 59902  
NEVADA CITY, CA 95959 - 7902  
( 530) 470 - 2795 FAX [www.mynevadacounty.com](http://www.mynevadacounty.com)

Trisha Tillotson  
Community Development Agency Director

Thomas Maioli  
Cannabis Compliance

Kimberly Parker  
Economic Development, Program Manager

**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**Staff Memo**

---

**MEETING DATE:** April 18, 2023

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Kimberly Parker, Economic Development Office  
Thomas Maioli, Cannabis Compliance Division  
Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency

**SUBJECT:** Authorizing submission of the State of California, Department of Cannabis Control, Retail Access Grant application totaling up to \$320,500.11. This includes a Phase I request of up to \$216,136 which provides for the development and implementation of a local cannabis retailer licensing program. An additional \$104,364.11 Equity Bonus can be secured during Phase I by those jurisdictions that include a proposal to issue retail licenses to qualified local equity businesses

---

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution to submit a Phase I grant request from the Department of Cannabis Control due April 28, 2023.

**FUNDING:** The Economic Development Office and Cannabis Compliance Division seek a Phase I grant from the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC), Retail Access Grant Program. Phase I funding will enable Nevada County to establish a cannabis retailer licensing program in unincorporated location(s) in Nevada County. The plan will include timelines for program adoption which will be used to assess whether the county has made measurable progress toward permitting cannabis retail business, as required by the Department of Cannabis Control Budget Act of 2022. An additional \$105,000 Equity Bonus is available for jurisdictions meeting qualifications. There is no match for this funding.

**BACKGROUND:** On March 10, 2023, the Department of Cannabis Control released their competitive grant guidelines for the Retail Access grant due April 28, 2023. Twenty million dollars is available through the grant process in two phases. Phase I is for development and implementation of a local cannabis retailer license program and Phase II awards additional funding after the local jurisdiction issues cannabis retailer permits.

This grant program aims to provide consumers with reliable consumer access to regulated, tested cannabis in the legal market, and reduce demand in the illicit market. By supporting local governments in establishing cannabis retail licensing programs, this grant also seeks to reduce the size of the illicit market and establish sufficient cannabis retail store statewide to meet existing consumer demand.

Staff plans to develop a draft ordinance identifying the allowance of retail store front sales dispensaries and mobile retail sales delivery in commercial and industrial zoning districts. Nevada County currently allows retail sales and mobile retail sales of cannabis product cultivated within the county at approved cultivation

sites located in the AG, AE, and FR zoning district, but has yet to receive an application. The Economic Development Office and Cannabis Compliance Division's grant application meets the qualifications for Phase I eligibility. Per grant guidelines, Nevada County is eligible if the following have not been completed. The County 1) has not yet begun accepting permit applications for cannabis retailers; 2) has not yet published permit application forms; and 3) has not yet permitted any cannabis retailers within their jurisdiction.

Up to \$10 million in total funding is available for Phase I. Eligible jurisdictions may receive funding based on population as determined by the California Department of Finance's 2022 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State. An additional Phase I Equity Bonus will be awarded to local jurisdictions that include a proposal to issue retail licenses to qualified local equity businesses. This funding will be paid with the second disbursement, after the jurisdiction has established a program with explicit provisions to issue licenses to qualified equity retail businesses.

**SUMMARY:** If awarded these funds will provide direct support to plan and develop cannabis retail business license options in unconsolidated location(s) in Nevada County. Because this is a competitive grant, staff will return to the Board to accept an official grant agreement in the event of an award.

**Item Initiated by:** Kimberly Parker, Economic Development Program Manager

**Approved by:** Trisha Tillotson, Acting Director of Public Works

**Submittal Date:** March 27, 2023

**Revision Date:** April 4, 2023