



**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

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

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**MEETING DATE:** July 9, 2024

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Matt Kelley, Code & Cannabis Department Director

**SUBJECT:** Resolution adopting the amended Nevada County Cannabis Local Equity Program Manual

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the attached Resolution amending the Nevada County Cannabis Local Equity Program (LEP) Manual.

**FUNDING:** N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Resolution Adopting the Amended Nevada County Cannabis Local Equity Program Manual
  - Exhibit A – Amended Nevada County Program Manual
- Strike-Out Version Nevada County Program Manual

**BACKGROUND:**

At the September 28, 2021, regular meeting, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors approved Resolution No. 21-431, adopting the Nevada County Cannabis Equity Assessment and Local Equity Program Manual and created the Nevada County Cannabis Local Equity Program, pursuant to the California Cannabis Equity Act of 2018. The goal of the Nevada County Cannabis Local Equity Program is to assure that individuals who were adversely impacted by the war on drugs have access to assistance in entering the legal cannabis industry who would like to participate in the regulated marketplace.

The California Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) has conducted a review of the Nevada County cannabis equity program and has identified the following

eligibility criteria below that appears to be overly inclusive/inconsistent with the California Cannabis Equity Act and that may violate the Equal Protection Clauses of the United States and California Constitutions, and Article 1, Section 31 of the California Constitution (Proposition 209). California Proposition 209, also known as the California Civil Rights Initiative, was a ballot initiative passed by voters in California in November 1996. It amended the California Constitution to prohibit state government from considering race, sex, or ethnicity in the areas including public contracting, and other topics such as education and employment.

Due to conflict with Proposition 209, the Local Equity Program Manual has been modified to better align with state law, while continuing to reflect the goals and objectives of the Good to Grow Equity Grant Program. Specifically, language previously identifying sexual orientation, gender and people of color has been removed.

In addition, participation in the Nevada County Medical Cannabis Donation Program, verified past and/or current participation in the Nevada County Cannabis Alliance Compassionate Use Program was identified as not being an eligible criterion as identified by the California Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development and has been removed.

Below is a summary of the criteria that has been removed from the Program Manual for consistency with State Law and the California Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development:

- Disadvantaged Population: Any woman, person of color, disabled or LGBTQ individual who has worked in or currently works in the cannabis industry in Nevada County.
- Participation in NC Medical Cannabis Donation Program: Verified past and/or current participation in the Caladrius Network, Nevada County Cannabis Alliance Compassionate Use Program/Committee, and/or volunteer work with Nevada County Americans for Safe Access (ASA) chapter 2011-2016.

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

**Approved By:** Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director

**Submitted:** June 24, 2024