



**COUNTY OF NEVADA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**Cannabis Compliance Division**

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

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**MEETING DATE:** December 5, 2023

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Kimberly Parker, Economic Development Office,  
Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** Resolution authorizing submission of an application for the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions for Type 2 funding totaling \$500,000.00, for fiscal year 2023-2024

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the attached Resolution approving the submission of an application for the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Type 2 funding, totaling, \$500,000.00.

**FUNDING:** The Economic Development Office intends to seek funding from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-BIZ) in effort to continue to support and retain commercial cannabis applicants who participate in the regulated marketplace. The attached Resolution reflects the intent to apply for a competitive grant and receive grant funding to continued operation of the Nevada County Cannabis Equity Program. No match funding is being requested. In the event that funds are awarded, a Resolution to accept an award amount and for Fiscal Year 23-24 program expenses and offsetting grant revenues will come before the Board of Supervisors with a request for a budget amendment.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Resolution Authorizing Submittal of the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development's Cannabis Equity Grants Program Application
- California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development's Cannabis Equity Grants Program Grant Solicitation
- California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development's Cannabis Equity Grants Program Grant application Budget Sheet

**BACKGROUND:** On November 6, 2023, the California Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development released the competitive grant guidelines for the Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions. The purpose of the program is to advance economic justice for individuals most harmed by cannabis criminalization and poverty by providing support to local jurisdictions as they promote equity and eliminate barriers to enter the newly regulated cannabis industry for equity program applicants and licensees. For fiscal year 2023-2024, the Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions was allocated fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) from the Cannabis Tax Fund. The application Type 2 funding request being applied for is five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) with no match funding required. Up to 10 percent or \$50,000 of the grant awarded can be used by staff to administer the grant for direct technical assistance.

In 2020, Nevada County was awarded Type 1 funding to complete a Cannabis Local Equity Assessment which was completed and approved in Resolution N0. 21-431 at the September 28, 2021, regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors. This Resolution adopted the Nevada County Cannabis Local Equity Program Manual and officially created the Local Equity Program pursuant to the California Cannabis Equity Act of 2018. It is now the desire of the Economic Development Office to pursue additional Type 2 funds to continue efforts to support the Equity Program. Funding Request Type 2, otherwise known as Assistance for Cannabis Equity Program Applicants and Licensees, allows assistance for cannabis equity program applicants to gain entry to, and to successfully operate in, the state’s regulated cannabis marketplace.

Nevada County is identified as an eligible local jurisdiction due to Nevada County’s previous and continued efforts and meets all qualifications referenced in the GO-BIZ Grant Solicitation (attached). Grant applications shall be submitted through the GO-BIZ online Cannabis Equity Grants portal by December 14, 2023, at 11:59p.m. Grant Agreements are anticipated to be executed no later than March 31, 2024.

**SUMMARY:**

In summary, the application and award of these grant funds will provide direct funding to implement the County’s Cannabis Local Equity Program. 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 Office, Program Manager

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

**Submitted:** November 16, 2023