



COUNTY OF NEVADA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Building – Cannabis Division

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: September 28, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Craig Griesbach, Building Director

SUBJECT: Resolution adopting the Nevada County Cannabis Equity Assessment (CEA) and Cannabis Local Equity Program (LEP) Manual and creating the Nevada County Cannabis Local Equity Program pursuant to the California Cannabis Equity Act of 2018

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Resolution creating a Cannabis Local Equity Program (LEP) and adoption of the Nevada County Cannabis Equity Assessment (CEA) and Local Equity Program (LEP) Manual.

FUNDING: Funding for the LEP is expected to be from Type 2 grant funding from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-biz). The Type 2 grant funding application due date is anticipated to be December 30, 2021. There is a requirement to have a funding contribution by the local jurisdiction when applying for Type 2 grant funding through the state. The recommended local contribution is \$50,000. The request for this funding contribution will be included in the request to apply for this grant funding that will return to the Board of Supervisors prior to the grant application due date. There will be a condition upon this request that the local contribution will only be made upon receipt of Type 2 grant funding from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-biz).

ATTACHMENTS:

- Nevada County Cannabis Equity Assessment (CEA)
- Nevada County Cannabis Local Equity Program (LEP) Manual
- Resolution creating a Local Cannabis Equity Program and adopting the Nevada County Cannabis Equity Assessment (CEA) and Cannabis Local Equity Program (LEP) Manual
- Nevada County Cannabis Local Equity Program (LEP) Executive Summary

BACKGROUND:

On February 25, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 20-049 authorizing the Community Development Agency Director to execute a grant agreement in the amount of \$149,999.95 with the State of California to fund the preparation of a Cannabis Equity Assessment (CEA) and the preparation of a Cannabis Local Equity Program (LEP) manual. This grant agreement was executed on April 29, 2020. On June 23, 2020, a contract was approved and executed by the Board of Supervisors with the California Center of Rural Policy at Humboldt State University in the amount of \$100,000. This contract was for the preparation of the CEA and LEP.

The goal of the CEA and LEP manual is to assure that individuals who were adversely impacted by the criminalization of cannabis have access to assistance in entering the legal cannabis industry. The CEA provides recommendations to guide the county to develop its LEP. The CEA utilizes data to document Nevada County's history with the prohibition and criminalization of cannabis, and its impact on the community. The findings and recommendations are shown in the attached CEA.

An integral part of the formation of both the CEA and LEP was obtaining information and feedback from staff and the community for both the CEA and LEP. County staff in collaboration with Humboldt State staff completed several community outreach meetings including a community listening session and cannabis equity survey. In addition, Humboldt State staff completed over 40 interviews with:

- Elected officials
- Local government departments
- Private stakeholders (non-cannabis)
- Cannabis special interest groups
- Attorneys with expertise in cannabis-related cases
- Communities impacted by cannabis criminalization; and
- Law enforcement personnel

In addition to public outreach, data was reviewed and analyzed from a variety of sources including the:

- Nevada County Economic and Demographic Profile, 2018
- 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment/Community Health Assessment of Nevada County
- Nevada County Cannabis Conversations
- Annual Cannabis Permit Renewal Application
- Cannabis Administrative Development Permit Application Packet
- Commercial Cannabis Permit Application Packet
- Final Community Advisory Group (CAG) Report, 2018
- Nevada Cannabis Background Timeline, 2018

- Final Environmental Impact Report Vol. I & II, 2019
- Nevada County Ordinance No.'s
 - 2339, 2349, 2405, 2416, 2450, 2456, 2464, 2465, 2467, 2470, & 2476

Establishing a LEP can help communities and populations, typically smaller growers when in rural counties, into a legal and sustainable economic future. The LEP leverages the findings in the CEA to create a programmatic manual. The manual will outline eligibility criteria, program access, services, administration, and monitoring and evaluation requirements. The primary considerations for program eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Conviction History
- Low Income Status
- Disadvantaged Population
- Trauma History
- Homelessness Considerations
- Small Scale Eradication Experiences
- Ownership Considerations
- Residency Considerations
- Local Benefit
- Family Conviction
- Participation in Local Compassionate Use Programs

If the CEA and LEP are adopted, staff will return to the Board of Supervisors prior to applying for Type 2 programmatic funding with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). Staff will also continue to work with the community and stakeholders for program marketing, creation of applications/documents, review of eligibility criteria, and awarding funds and services if Type 2 grant funding is received.

SUMMARY:

In summary, the adoption and creation of a cannabis LEP will provide additional tools and resources for Nevada County commercial cannabis cultivators to come into compliance with local and state laws. The adoption of a cannabis LEP will also allow Nevada County the opportunity to apply for and receive Type 2 grant funding and disperse these funds and services to qualifying applicants. This will continue to support the mission of the cannabis program to work in partnership with the community to promote and maintain a safe and environmentally responsible cannabis industry.

Item Initiated and Approved By: Craig Griesbach, Building Director
Submitted: September 13, 2021