



County of Humboldt

Project Trellis Cannabis Business Micro-Grant

Updated Nov. 11-20-2020

Thank you for your interest in the Project Trellis Cannabis Business Micro-Grant Program. As specified in Humboldt County Resolution 20-33, the program's purpose is to:

...bolster the cannabis industry, and protect future cannabis excise tax revenues by providing services to populations and communities in Humboldt County who were adversely affected by the criminalization of cannabis, to develop a framework for supportive programs designed to sustain and grow Humboldt County's cannabis industry, and to assist cannabis businesses as they work to overcome the financial and logistical challenges of coming into compliance.

Please see the [Project Trellis Cannabis Business Micro-Grant webpage](#) for more details as found in the [applications instructions](#), [Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#), and [scoring rubric](#). Please contact [Peggy Murphy](#) at pmurphy@co.humboldt.ca.us or (707) 599-0125 to discuss any questions about your application.

Update Notice

The Project Trellis Cannabis Business Micro-grant Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) and application were updated November 20th, 2020, based on input from the Board of Supervisor's and the public.

Grant Amount

The total allocation for the current year is \$516,492 and will be allocated to selected project proposals. Individual applicants may apply for up to \$10,000. Collaborative, mutually beneficial cooperatives and associations may apply for up to \$50,000.

The link to the application form, instructions, and example scoring rubric can be found at

<http://gohumco.org/236/Project-Trellis-Micro-Grants>.

Eligibility

As defined by Resolution 19-45 as amended by Resolution 20-33, to be eligible for funding, applicants must be:

- 1) a Humboldt County based business, cooperative or association (examples include, but are not limited to: Cannabis Cooperative Association, Road Maintenance Association, Agricultural Cooperative), or nonprofit organization
- 2) having 75% or more of its operations based in Humboldt County;
- 3) currently licensed and registered to operate in Humboldt County*;
- 4) whose activities are specific to the cultivation, processing, manufacturing, distribution or retail of cannabis, or whose organization provides support and/or services to the cannabis industry.

*If an applicant is not licensed or registered, but is in the process of doing so, it may apply for grant funds for the purpose of completing the licensing and permitting process.

Application Process

Applications should be submitted electronically. However, hard copies are accepted if some documents are easier to submit in paper format. Applications are to be submitted electronically via the

online application form found at: <http://gohumco.org/236/Project-Trellis-Micro-Grants>. Electronic attachment formats accept are: PDF, JPEG, or PNG. A PDF download is available via the online application platform, which can be returned via email, including all required attachments, to pmurphy@co.humboldt.ca.us. Hard copies can be mailed or delivered to the County of Humboldt County Administrative Office's Office of Economic Development, Attn: Peggy Murphy, 520 E Street, Eureka, CA 95501. Only complete applications, including all required attachments, will be accepted for consideration.

Applications may be subject to public disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act.

Please contact Peggy Murphy by phone at 707-599-0125 or email at pmurphy@co.humboldt.ca.us to discuss any questions about your application.

Application Packet Checklist

Required (per County Resolution 19-45) All documents listed below must be submitted at the time of application to be considered for funding. Applicants may be required to submit other documentation depending on the nature of their application and project. Document formats accepted for upload are PDF, JPEG, PNG.

- Completed Application/Coversheet
- Project Narrative
- Project Budget that includes revenue and expenses
- Documentation certifying legal status of business
- Proof of business or agency licensing
- Proof of regulatory compliance
- Any accompanying and supportive project documents such as site maps, equipment specifications, contractor bids and estimates.

Optional Attachments that may be Included:

- Timeline with expected project milestones and completion dates
- Letters of support: attach documentation of collaboration and/or project need in the form of Letters of Support, Letters of Partner Commitment, and/or Memoranda of Understanding
- Brief resumes of key personnel
- Market Analysis
- Business Plan
- Associated Research



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Application Coversheet

Applicant Name and Title

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

Postal / Zip Code Country

Applicant Phone Applicant Email

Applicant interest in project/site

Business/Association Name

Please note: Applications may be disclosed pursuant to the California Public Records Act. If you are including information you consider confidential in this application, please see the “additional information” section of Narrative questions.



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Applicant Eligibility

- Are you applying as a Humboldt County based business, cooperative, association, or nonprofit organization? Yes No
- Are 75% or more of its operations based in Humboldt County? Yes No
- Are you currently licensed and registered to operate in Humboldt County? Yes No
- Are the activities of your business, association, or organization, specific to the cultivation, processing, manufacturing, distribution or retail of cannabis, or whose organization provides support and/or services to the cannabis industry? Yes No



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Business or Association Type

\$10,000 Eligibility

- Cultivation (as defined in Humboldt County Code 719 3)
- Retail
- Manufacturing
- Distribution
- Cannabis Support Business

Cultivation Lighting (as defined in Humboldt County Code 719-3)

- Outdoor
- Mixed Lighting
- Indoor

\$50,000 Eligibility

Cannabis Cooperative (As defined in California Business and Professions Code § 26220 et seq.)

Road Maintenance (As defined in Humboldt County Code Section 314 55.4.12.1.8.4)

Nonprofit Cooperative Associations (As defined in California Food and Agriculture Code 54001 et seq)

Nonprofit Mutual benefit Corporations (As defined in Corporations Code 7110 et seq; and consisting of 2 or more entities)

Agricultural Cooperatives (As defined as user owned, user controlled, and user benefitting with Articles of Incorporation as required by the California Secretary of State)

Other

If Other, please explain

What amount of the business is Humboldt owned? "Humboldt owned" is defined by registered residency of owners

100% Humboldt owned

51% 99% Humboldt owned

1% 50% Humboldt owned

0% Humboldt owned

Ownership Structure and Owners

non profit

of FTE Employees

1

Summarize the business/association and its activities
Word Limit: 250

Please include this summary on a separate paper included with submission.



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Proposal Request

Program / Project Name

Panther Gap Road Project

Requested Amount

USD 0.00 \$30,000

Total project cost/funding needed:

USD 0.00 \$30,000

Additional Funding Sources

self

Type of project

- Planning
- Implementation
- Technical Assistance
- Capital Investment
- Other

Project Address

multiple parcels on and around 5970 Panther Gap Road

Project Assessor's
Parcel Number (APN):

107236015

Does the project/business consist of a qualified outdoor cultivating operation (as per Humboldt County Land Use Ordinance) that produces less than 10,000 sq. ft. of cannabis (not including co ops and associations whose cumulative area may exceed 10,000 square feet)? Yes No

Which of the following licenses, permits, or agreements do you currently have, or are in the process of obtaining, as are applicable to your business/organization. Applicants may be required to submit other documentation depending on the nature of their application and project. Acceptable attachment formats are PDF, JPEG, and PNG. When uploading documents, please label with the applicable title from the list below.

- CDFA Cannabis Cultivation Annual Permit
- CDFA Cannabis Cultivation Provisional Permit
- CDFW Lake And Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement or written verification if not needed.
- Humboldt County Annual Permit
- Humboldt County Provisional Permit
- Jurisdiction Business License
- California Department of Tax and Fee Administration tax permit
- Motor Carrier Permit
- California Department of Public Health's Manufactured Cannabis license
- CDFA Weighmaster license
- Articles of Incorporation
- Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)

Licenses, Permits, &
Agreements

Please include copies of licenses, permits and agreements to this application for submission.



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Explanation of Narrative Questions

Please provide narratives that respond to the following prompts. For more information on narrative responses, please refer to the [scoring rubric](#).

Project Overview: In this section, describe the proposed project and anticipated use of requested funds. Also, describe other attempts to secure alternative funding, and how or why the requested micro grant is needed to become solvent.

Word Limit: 500

Please provide this narrative on a separate piece of paper to be submitted with this application.

Economic Impacts: Describe the economic impact, sustainability, civic impact of the business/association. Describe how the project supports industry growth and development and will enhance Humboldt County's competitive edge and will add to the sustainability of Humboldt County's cannabis industry. Describe how operations are expected to add to revenues collected through the Cannabis Excise Tax. Describe how the project and/or grant request will result in the creation and/or retention of jobs. Describe how the applicant will use funding to increase long term sustainability of their business/association. Describe any other community impacts the business/association supports through civic engagement such as volunteering activism, or organizing, etc.

Word Limit: 500

Please provide this narrative on a separate piece of paper to be submitted with this application.

Environmental Impacts: In this section, describe the effort made to reduce environmental impact. Describe how the project has, or will have, a positive effect on the environment and long term sustainability. Please make sure to indicate if these efforts are planned, in process, or established. Based on the scoring criteria for this section please focus on one or more of the following:

Word Limit: 500

Please provide this narrative on a separate piece of paper to be submitted with this application,.

Project Process:

Describe activities/work already conducted toward meeting objectives (i.e. prior research, planning, permitting, investment). Describe per AB 1291, if applicant has provided, or is in progress of, an attestation (under 20 employees) or formed a Labor Peace Agreement (20 and above employees). Describe applicant knowledge of cannabis industry best practices, as well as, how applicant has or will secure the necessary resources (skilled personnel skills, plan, business structure, etc.) needed to achieve desired outcomes. Describe how funding will help applicant meet clearly stated objectives and outcomes can be measured/demonstrated.

Word Limit: 500

Please prepare this narrative on a separate piece of paper to be submitted with this application.

Additional Information (optional)

Please add any additional information you feel would help the committee to understand your project. This is the place to share any personal, confidential or sensitive information. Applications are subject to disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act. However, certain Information about physical or mental health, medical records, personal contact information if there is a compelling interest in withholding the information (must be explained), receipt of public services, trade secrets or other proprietary information may be withheld from disclosure. In addition, information that is in the best interest of the public to withhold, when balanced against the strong public interest in disclosure of the information, as determined by the County, may be withheld.

Word Limit: 250

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Sample Project Budget Format

Applicants must provide a detailed operational budget of the project or grant request that includes revenue and expense.

Applicants may use the following or a similar format for your project budget submittal. For major expenses, please be specific.

Note: The table below is for information only and is not fillable. When complete, please upload your budget file in the field beneath the example.

<i>Project Expense Item</i>	Total Cost (\$)	Requested Amount from Project Trellis Grant Fund	Amount of other funding	Source of Other Funds
Example: Travel	5,000	2,000	3,000	Owner
Direct Salaries & Wages (breakdown by individual position & indicate full or part-time; list indirect staff costs in "Overhead-staff related" section below)				
Staff 1				
Staff 2:... etc.				
Sub-total: all Direct Salaries & Wages				
Benefits & Payroll Taxes				
Consultant & professional fees (specify)				
Travel (describe)				
Equipment (specify)				
Overhead- non-staff related				
Overhead- staff related (breakdown by individual position; include payroll taxes and fringe benefits)				
All Overhead Costs as % of Total Project Cost				
Total Project Cost				

Note 1: "Overhead non staff related" includes office supplies, printing, telephone/fax, postage, rent, and utilities.

Note 2: "Overhead staff related" is comprised of indirect staff costs (e.g. bookkeeper).

Project Budget

Upload files using this box.

Please prepare your project budget on a separate sheet to be included with this application.



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Additional Attachments

Select each item being uploaded.

- Any accompanying and supportive project documents such as site maps, equipment specifications, contractor bids and estimates.
- Timeline with expected project milestones and completion dates
- Letters of support: attach documentation of collaboration and/or project need in the form of Letters of Support, Letters of Partner Commitment, and/or Memoranda of Understanding
- Brief resumes of key personnel
- Market Analysis
- Business Plan
- Associated Research

File upload

Please attach copies of all documents checked above for submission with this application.

Project Trellis Application

Narrative

The Western Humboldt Foundation for Farmer Advocacy, LLC is a nonprofit created from our legacy cannabis farm, Lost Creek Farms. We are 100% Humboldt residents and have been for decades. Both of my husband [REDACTED] and myself have spent a lot of time serving the community and being involved in activism. (see resumes) We have included paperwork from both entities since one directly funds the other. We are asking for help with culvert installation since there are several farms on our road that use this vulnerable spot. In addition to environmental and market concerns it would also be helpful during fire season in case of an evacuation .

The proposed project would be a 2 culvert installation on the private side of Panther Gap Road after the county road , along with brush removal and some rock and grading. The funds will be used to make this portion of the road smoother and easier for farms on this road to get goods to market and to be able to get better local deliveries. Workers and owners will have an easier time getting to the job site and a safer access in case of fire. This project will also protect Salmon habitat by preventing run-off from getting in to the Mattole River.

When the county initially proposed Road Associations I was advised by counsel not to pursue it since they are not often successful and bare the cost of organizing and legal fees. Despite not having a formal entity our farm was forced to fulfill the role of a Road Association this summer since we have lived in the area a long time (40 years) and

have a history of community organizing. After asking several neighbors on the road and being promised participation, but getting nothing I reluctantly agreed with my lawyer. My hope is that if the nonprofit receives the grant that we can inspire more community minded participants and will create the Road Association that will continue to operate without grant funding.

Revenue Contribution

This grant will directly affect the operations of several small & medium sized farms in this watershed. Every one of the pounds produced on these farms crosses this road eventually. Many trailers are towed back and forth on this access and the lack of culverts makes deliveries impossible . Several times we have had to meet deliveries at the county road and load all the goods on to our rig, making several trips. Propane deliveries wouldn't come this spring until we bought rock and were able to fix it but this is a temporary solution and not the best for the salmon .There are several family farms whose permits are in process for whom this road work would be a make or break scenario . It sustains & increases the tax revenue by keeping these farms viable. This is an area where due to nature of growing, land is relatively a good investment and young families can start out with little to no overhead. If farms in this part of the county continue to thrive and increase in value despite the transportation issues, families and businesses can come up.

Job Creation and Retention

There are many cultivation sites in Panther Gap Road, all who employ at least 2 people, most have more. Our farms alone employ five full time employees and a myriad of other services not limited to : supply stores, foresters, a payroll service, two

accountants , engineers, more than 3 lawyers, a graphic artist, local distributor and all that entails, an extraction company, clone companies, a technical support engineer and many other indirect personnel . The easier it is for us to get our most basic transportation needs met, the more we can grow and continue to hire out for all the anticipated needs.

Adds to the sustainability of the industry

As owners of a failed Ag Co-op (The Sungrower's Guild) we have learned that the most important piece of the cannabis business puzzle was the cultivation part, specifically how we can compete with big farms in the Central Valley. Without the product from small Humboldt farms , at a comparable price the whole county is unable to compete with flat acreage and a ready workforce. This project would make it easier to get to town and reduce trips to the mechanic for everyone who uses the road which will in turn allow us to get better quality workers and options for support people as well. Inspectors will have an easier time navigating this road making the unpermitted cultivators less brazen and making it more difficult for them to hide. There are still a few small farms with young families who are eligible but deterred from permitting because of the associated costs and overall distrust of government agencies .This project would provide support and hope to those still trying to make their own small legal cultivation . As a mother I understand the key to overall economic sustainability is the ability for young people to work on a farm and then own their own farms. This is possible in Panther Gap with the exception of legacy road issues that will deter new ownership.

Solvency

The nonprofit organization requesting this grant came about because our farm has been financially solvent for decades. If other small farms are given community support in the same way we were (the MRC would occasionally grade this very road for the benefit of the salmon but it helped our farm tremendously) it would assist them in their own abilities to be solvent. Also as I mentioned this has traditionally been a place where newcomers to the industry could be relatively solvent within a few years. I would like to keep Panther Gap an area where new families can have successful homestead farms.

Objectives

This project reaches the stated objectives in that it clearly helps the environment and the small scale cultivators ,which has a ripple effect in the overall economy in Humboldt County, and the burgeoning cannabis businesses to come. More small local businesses can meet our needs with the improved transportation . Success can be measured by overall cultivation tax increases in general as farms continue to thrive, other ancillary cannabis businesses opening and participating in partnerships with our area & in increased property tax as these parcels retain & increase their value in rural parts of the county.

Preparedness

This project is unique in that the county is already planning on working on their portion of the road after a terrible slide that required a shuttle, fences and a death of a legacy cannabis farmer due to the county's locked gate. If we could plan the two projects in conjunction it would save money in transportation of heavy equipment and use the same team which the county always employs and who have an excellent working knowledge of the terrain and this particular road in general. We would have access to

maps and recent satellite imagery. It would be a smooth transition and would take less time in general to execute . I have also contacted Head of Redwoods State Park Roads Division and they are supportive and even offered to come service their portions of the road this summer.

Long Term Sustainability

If Western Humboldt Foundation is granted this funding we will increase the sustainability by creating a Panther Gap Road Association immediately . This Road association will be able to secure their own funds moving forward. With safer access more the small farmers will be able to thrive and to get vital deliveries . If more of the cultivators in this area continue to be successful despite the challenges it will encourage more small buisnesses, more tax revenue and will keep the Mattole cleaner.

Economy

This grant will increase Humboldt's competitive edge by allowing small farms offgrid to keep their viability and access to some services. It encourages solar & green solutions whenever possible. These small boutique cultivations are what drives all the other supporting buisness in town and transportation is the single biggest issue.

Environment

This project has a multitude of environmental components that make it a good candidate . The culverts themselves are badly needed and will prevent silt and dirt from getting into the waterway which is a tributary of the Mattole River. This will preserve Salmon Habitat . It would be completed in accordance with California State Law so no habitats would be disturbed while work commenced.

It is hoped that combining this project with the reconstruction of the county road that resources will be conserved as heavy equipment and other personal will already be within 5 miles.

It will also encourage more sungrown farmers to look in to regenerative practices and other green energy solutions .When the transportation is simpler, famers are able to concentrate on other factors of production . For instances our whole farm switched to solar snap fans (a completely Humboldt based & owned company) after saving for two harvests. With a safe access assured, farmers will be able to pursue investments in greener technology .

Additional Information

When we first moved to Panther Gap it was a vibrant, successful community tucked away from the rest of county. The more solvent these little farms were, the less we had to resort to community activism to fix the road. With the advent of legalization, people in Panther Gap became discouraged that the focus seemed to be upon shutting down generational farms to move them to expensive, non existent land in the Valley. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the inability of many residents to afford the associated fees, and the many new computer regulatory related tasks, Panther Gap has seen a shift in population and economy. Having run the Sungrowers Guild before its untimely demise from COVID-19, I walked with many of these residents throughout the process only to see them run out of money half way through, have their harvests stolen by

failing distribution companies or become completely discouraged by the new regulations developing that make the goalpost seem ever farther. Farmers are selling/renting land out to criminals who use the bad road situation as an excuse to hide while they grow illegally, cook meth , human traffic (yes I've even seen this,) shoot guns, steal ,all while bringing more criminals up the road to hide. Community pride is still there but is quick disappearing in favor of a lower common denominator making it all the more difficult for those of us trying to operate legally . My hope with this grant is that it will pick up where the Sungrowers' Guild left, to provide support and some sense of place for all of us (farmers and not) in Humboldt .