



Humboldt County

Cannabis Local Equity Program Manual

The purpose of this manual is to describe the requirements for licensees of, or those seeking to apply to the Humboldt County Cannabis Local Equity Program (CLEP). This manual also describes the types of services to be provided by the CLEP, and program administration.

A. Qualifications

Those applying for, or who are licensee of, the Humboldt County Cannabis Local Equity Program shall:

1. Apply as a person, not an entity
2. Be one of the following:
 - a. An individual licensed for, seeking a license for, or employment in a Humboldt County licensed cannabis business
 - b. The business owner
 - c. Own at least 40% of the business and be the CEO
 - d. Own at least 51% of the business
 - e. A board member of a non-profit cannabis business where most of the board also qualify as equity applicants
 - f. Have a membership interest in a cannabis business formed as a cooperative per B&P Code section 26220 - 26231.2.
 - g. An employee of, or seeking employment with, a Humboldt County licensed cannabis business.
3. Have resided in Humboldt County at least five years during the period 1971 – 2016.
4. Have obtained or applied for a permit or zoning clearance for, be employed in or seeking employment in commercial cannabis activities in Humboldt County, or shall apply for a permit or zoning clearance for commercial cannabis activities from Humboldt County, or shall seek employment in connection with the services and assistance to be provided by the Humboldt County Cannabis Equity Program.
5. Meet at least one of the following equity conditions:
 - a. Household income below 80% of median for Humboldt County in year submitting CLEP application.
 - b. Have been arrested for or convicted of the sale, possession, use, manufacture or cultivation of cannabis (including as a juvenile), or been subject to asset forfeiture from 1971 to 2015;
 - c. Have a parent, sibling or child who was arrested for or convicted of the sale, possession, use, manufacture or cultivation of cannabis (including as a juvenile) from 1971 to 2015;
 - d. Have lived within a five mile radius of the location of raids conducted by the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) program during the period from 1971 to 2015;
 - e. Have engaged in cultivation of cannabis on property in Humboldt County owned, leased, or with the express permission of the owner, with a cultivation area less than 10,000 square feet for a period of at least 2 years during the period from 1971 - 2015.
 - f. Be a member of an ethnic, racial or other disadvantaged community, including but not limited to LGBTQ persons.
 - g. Have become homeless or suffered a loss of housing as a result of marijuana enforcement during the period from 1971 – 2015.



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B. Services

Services to be provided by the Humboldt County Cannabis Equity Program may include, depending on need and the availability of funds from grants or other sources:

1. Waiver of fees for Application Assistance Meetings of up to four hours, with the Cannabis Services Division of the Department of Planning and Building;
2. Cannabis Business Development Assistance from the Office of Economic Development, including business planning, loan application preparation, human resource management, bookkeeping and accounting practices and systems, etc.;
3. Deferral of payment of Application Fees for Cannabis Activity Zoning Clearance Certificates or Special Permit or Use Permit for a period not to exceed three (3) years;
4. Technical Assistance for the formation and administration of Road Maintenance Associations for public and private road networks providing access to cannabis activity operations by eligible cannabis equity program applicants or licensees, where such road networks may adversely impact watersheds providing habitat for threatened or endangered species;
5. Waiver or deferral of fees for training and certification by the Agricultural Commissioner's office for Weights and Measures and Pesticide Applicators requirements or certification of scales used in cannabis licensed businesses in Humboldt County;
6. Technical Assistance for the formation of cannabis cooperative associations pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 26220 -26231.2 the majority membership of which is comprised of cannabis equity program applicants or licensees.
7. Loans or Grants for purposes of assuring compliance with regulatory requirements of local or state permits or licenses that mitigate adverse environmental effects of cannabis cultivation or other activities including, but not limited to:
 - a. Water storage for irrigation during forbearance periods of surface water diversion required by state or local regulations;
 - b. Remediation and relocation of cannabis facilities located within streamside setbacks required by state or local regulation;
 - c. Installation of solar electrical systems to replace diesel or gasoline generator power for off-grid cannabis facilities where connecting to the grid is economically infeasible.
8. Employment skill training for eligible equity participants employed or seeking employment in licensed cannabis operations in Humboldt County



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C. Program Administration:

1. No more than ten percent (10%) of Bureau of Cannabis Control Local Equity Program Grant Funds may be utilized for program administration;
2. Principal Administration and Coordination of Services shall be administered by the County Administrative Office - Economic Development Team (Economic Development) for determination of eligibility;
3. Economic Development shall promulgate any policies, procedures, and forms necessary for program administration and submit them to the Board of Supervisors for review and approval.
4. To the maximum extent feasible, county staff will provide existing services to CLEP applicants and licensees, with the intent to have Equity Program funding pay for the cost of those services. Such funding will be provided either through the administration portion of the CLEP or eligible services described in Section B above;
5. Economic Development shall monitor and report on all program services provided through the CLEP, at least annually and more frequently as directed by the Board of Supervisors, state law or regulation;
6. Economic Development shall receive and process all applications to determine eligibility of equity program participants;

D. Budget Allocation

Available Program funds shall be allocated for Program Services specified in Section B., above, as follows:

Loans and Grants	60%
Technical Assistance, Training, waivers and fee reductions	30%
Administration (not to exceed)	10%