



# 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.

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### **Update Notice**

The Project Trellis Cannabis Business Micro-grant Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) and application were updated November 20<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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  State

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

(Application is currently under evaluation by Portia Saucedo of Planning Dept. PLN-2020-16141)  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

Limited Liability Company

# of FTE Employees

owner operated

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

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

We teach aspiring black & brown farmers to legally & sustainably grow cannabis.



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### Proposal Request

Program / Project Name	Bridges Academy Farms Phase II
Requested Amount	USD 0.00 \$10,000
Total project cost/funding needed:	USD 0.00 \$15,920
Additional Funding Sources	Personal & Private investment
Type of project	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Investment <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Project Address	<div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> Willow Creek CA 95573



Project Assessor's  
Parcel Number (APN):

Parcel #524-201-025-000

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.**



## Introduction

2020 will be remembered as one of the most transformative years in modern history. The disruptive events throughout the year have forced us to reevaluate our foundations as a community, a society, and as a species as a whole. The way forward will require a reconciliation of past practices with modern innovations, in order to realize a more sustainable, resilient & just future.

Humboldt County farmers have the opportunity to be trailblazers in this regard. The combination of abundant natural resources & their thoughtful stewardship will be an essential component to fortifying our community against challenges seen & unseen. To be effective will require all-hands-on-deck & a sure plan to bridge individual skills with societal solutions.

## Overview

**Bridges Academy Farms** was formally established in 2020, after years of concept development. The founders have 30+ years of combined experience in Humboldt as small-scale medical cannabis farmers.

We offer an immersive, first-of-its-kind, educational pilot program for aspiring farmers of color to learn how to grow cannabis sustainably.

Join The Movement. Help Us Build Bridges Between **Nature, Humanity & Justice**.



Last year, **Bridges Academy Farms' Phase I** action plan enjoyed broad support of members of the community, local organizations & industry associates.

Grateful for that support, we achieved the following milestones:

- Establishment of Legal & Business Entity
- Improvement & expansion of farm infrastructure
- Acquisition of key genetics for **Phase II** cultivation ops
- Production of mini-doc of Humboldt's first black-owned cannabis farm
- Outreach to other BIPOC farms & aspiring farmers
- Partnership with **The Warrior Institute**, a native non-profit organization
- Membership with **Willow Creek Cannabis Alliance**
- Membership with the **National Black Farmers Association**



We are applying for support from The Project Trellis Committee to help fuel aspects of our **Phase II** rollout. We seek a \$10,000 micro grant for 2 causes:

- 1) to facilitate the enrollment and material support of aspiring farmers of color who seek jobs in the cannabis industry through **Bridges Academy Farms**
- 2) compensation for local teacher/facilitators who contribute student instruction & development of the comprehensive curriculum

Our grant proposal focuses on part 2 & 3 of the action plan, detailed below, with areas specific to the requested funding indicated with a blue and white diamond.

### **Bridges Academy Action Plan: Phase II**

With the arrival of 2021, we are pleased to present **Phase II** of our action plan:

1. Establishment & Development of Curriculum
2. Enrollment of Prospective Students
3. Seasonal Educational Events
4. Video Documentation of Students & Practitioners
5. Pursuit of **Sun & Earth Organic Cannabis Certification**

#### **1. Establishment & Development of Curriculum**

A selection of classic reading materials, has been approved as a compliment to our comprehensive curriculum, which each student will receive to supplement experiential learning. (see References for a sample of titles)


The **Bridges Academy Farms** curriculum, entitled “**Soul, Sun & Soil**” will guide students to establish proficiency in the fundamentals of sustainable, soil-based & sun-grown cannabis.

Students will coordinate elements of the Biodynamic Calendar in their daily lesson plan as they learn best practices surrounding soil health, water management, and natural integrated pest management.

#### **2. Enrollment of Prospective Students**

Through the successful **Phase I** outreach, we identified nearly a dozen prospective candidates to attend the educational pilot program. Several of the prospects have completed the application process, and a brief profile is available on the Timeline Proposal document.

These first prospects & attendees represent a full spectrum of skillsets relating to agriculture, from little experience to AgroEcology teachers. Their aspirations are equally as dynamic, ranging from strictly farming, to consulting & executive administration. We look forward to a mutual exchange of knowledge & inspiration.

 Of the total request, we are proposing \$5440 to be applied as scholarships for confirmed students of our educational pilot program. This scholarship will cover 3 key areas:

- Provide assistive funding for students towards their travel related expenses to & from the farm



- Provide books, learning materials & relevant personal farm-related equipment for each student
- Provide funding assistance towards costs associated with lodging during long-term studies

### **3. Seasonal Educational Events**

The dynamic micro-climates of Willow Creek offer a unique opportunity to demonstrate the diverse conditions that contribute to the success of our local cannabis & agricultural farms.

Coupled with insights from the biodynamic calendar & seasonal shifts, we will introduce our students to a deeper appreciation of what makes our farms & community thrive.

**Bridges Academy Farms** has partnered with farmers, teachers & facilitators across our region who have offered to share their knowledge of farming with students & attendees. These individuals are noted under the “References” section, and their roles are featured in more detail on the Timeline Proposal document.



We are requesting \$4560 to compensate the teacher/facilitators for their time in direct instruction of students and their contributions to crafting the curriculum.

### **4. Video Documentation of Students & Practitioners**

Bridges Academy Farms has partnered with Green Rush Films, a cohort of HSU Film School graduates whose mentors include award-winning directors of internationally acclaimed documentaries. **Phase I** saw the production of their **Bridges Academy Farms mini-documentary**, focusing on the experiences of black farmers in the cannabis industry.

Watch Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/492160375>

This year, **Phase II** will follow up their work with a dynamic, groundbreaking cannabis documentary featuring each student & practitioner/facilitator involved in the pilot program. This will be published across digital platforms, including, but not limited to Youtube, Vimeo, Instagram & Facebook.

### **5. Pursuit of Sun & Earth Regenerative Certification**

Sun & Earth certification is a rigorous agricultural standard that focuses on care for the earth, human empowerment, and community engagement. The cultivation techniques practiced & taught at **Bridges Academy Farms** perfectly compliment this evolution in organic certification. Introducing aspiring farmers to high standards of land stewardship will set the bar for their endeavors moving forward.

## **Local Impact**

### **On County Revenue & Economic Contributions:**

The cultivation site will generate Cannabis Excise Taxes, based on canopy square footage. In addition, operational expenses will continue to support local individuals & businesses.



Where proposed grant funds are concerned, 40-50% of total grant funding is to be allocated to compensate teachers & practitioners involved with education & curriculum support.

### **On Job Creation & Industry Contributions:**

**Bridges Academy Farms** is operated by its owners, providing pandemic-resistant self-employment, as cannabis is classified as an essential industry.

The Academy will serve to train students to become capable & confident in seeking employment within the industry, starting their own farm, or other cannabis-related endeavors.

Our efforts directly translate to the introduction of a diverse, well-trained class of entrepreneurs into the local cannabis economy. Historically, regulated cannabis enterprises have been incredibly inaccessible to BIPOC (black, indigenous & people of color). Our educational program represents an antidote to that harmful discrepancy.

### **On Solvency:**

Our passion is in building connection. The vision set forth is well underway due to the urgent need of real connection, the **Bridging of Nature, Humanity & Justice**. The support of Project Trellis during **Phase II** would cement an opportunity to do right by those from communities unjustly targeted in the War on Cannabis.

### **On Meeting Objectives:**

See attached timeline for proposed schedule of objectives

### **On Preparation & Readiness:**

With 30+ years cultivation experience, the skillset is in place to successfully execute **Phase II**. And thanks to local support, our farm infrastructure has been reimagined & updated.

The “**Soul, Sun & Soil**” Curriculum is being drafted for the 2021 planting season, which represents an exciting culmination of farming practices, plant philosophy & innovative techniques developed over years of farming in Humboldt. This endeavor is backed by experts in the field of cannabis, food production, & permaculture practices. **Bridges Academy Farms** is proud to represent a conduit of this combined knowledge.

### **On Long-term Sustainability:**

As the local cannabis industry grows, so will the need for talented farmers. Many local farmers have struggled with locating & retaining the right talent for the job.

Our plan to introduce diverse, conscientious farmers to this industry will strengthen the capabilities of the local farms who seek qualified employees, while also reinforcing the standard of quality that put Humboldt on the map.

### **On The Environment:**

The specific proposal would generate no additional environmental impacts. As a sustainable, education-focused cannabis cultivation project, the long-term outcome will reflect our ethos of responsible stewardship of the land.

As we pursue our goal of becoming a **Sun & Earth Certified** farm, **Bridges Academy Farms** will serve as a model for others who desire a holistic approach to cannabis. This includes practices that promote carbon sequestration and minimal use of fossil fuels, all of which represent standard operating procedures employed on our farm.

### **On Future Goals:**

**Phase III** begins in 2022, where the foundation laid in the previous years create conditions to achieve the following goals:

- Expansion to additional property
- Debut of **Bridges Academy Farms** documentary & Black Farmers in Cannabis biopic
- Rollout of **Doja Gold**, Humboldt's Premiere Socially Conscious Cannabis Brand
- Accept nomination as Lead Farmers with Nima's Wish Foundation to build and support West African farms in The Gambia



### **Books**

“A Biodynamic Manual” Pierre Masson <https://g.co/kgs/BvqXaL>

“The Biodynamic Year” - Maria Thun <https://g.co/kgs/vp5xNv>

“The Vegetable Gardener's Guide to Permaculture” - Christopher Shein <https://g.co/kgs/RBECAS>

“Teaming With Microbes” - Jeff Lowenfel <https://g.co/kgs/LYFeL9>

“One Straw Revolution: An Introduction to Natural Farming” - Masanobu Fukuoka <https://g.co/kgs/XSVFZP>

“The Organic Grow Book” - Karel Schelfhout