

# Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program (LJAGP) – Direct Grant Development

MENDOCINO CANNABIS PROGRAM, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

# Agenda

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- ▶ 3:30 – 3:35 Join the Webinar
- ▶ 3:35 – 4:00 Overview of Direct Grant Program – Project Allowances
- ▶ 4:00 – 4:15 Qualifying Criteria (Public Comment)
- ▶ 4:15 – 4:30 Maximum Direct Grant Award Amount & Payment Terms / Schedule (Public Comment)
- ▶ 4:30 – 4:45 Benefits to Equity Eligible Applicants (Public Comment)
- ▶ 4:45 – 5:00 Fee Waivers (Public Comment)

# How Participate In Today's Meeting

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- ▶ Q&A Chat – located in the Features bar. Generally either at the top or bottom of screen. Click the Q&A icon to open the chat box. Only panelists will see the question or comment.
- ▶ Raise Hand – located in the Features bar. Generally either at the top or bottom of screen, or use \*9 if calling into the meeting.
- ▶ Mute / Unmute – located in lower left and/or upper right hand side of screen, or use \*6 if calling into the meeting.
- ▶ Time will be made at the end of the meeting for Q&A.

# Important Dates

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- ▶ February 25, 2022, from 8:30 – 10:00 am PT, MCP Weekly Public Meeting
- ▶ **February 28, 2022 – notification that 30-day Corrections Portal will open in 30-days** **NEW**
- ▶ March 4, 2022, from 8:30 – 10:00 am PT, MCP Weekly Public Meeting
- ▶ March 11, 2022, from 8:30 – 10:00 am PT, MCP Weekly Public Meeting
- ▶ March 16, 2022, from 3:30 – 5:00 pm PT, Local Equity Entrepreneur Meeting
- ▶ March 18, 2022, from 8:30 – 10:00 am PT, MCP Weekly Public Meeting
- ▶ March 25, 2022, from 8:30 – 10:00 am PT, MCP Weekly Public Meeting
- ▶ **March 28, 2022, at 12:01 am PT, 30-day Corrections Portal opens** **NEW**
- ▶ **April 28, 2022, at 11:59 pm PT, 30-day Corrections Portal closes** **NEW**

# Direct Grant Assistance Programs

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- ▶ Direct Grant Fund Amount - **\$10,473,468.00**
- ▶ Deadline for funding – December 31, 2025
- ▶ Funding Opportunities
  - ▶ Fee Waivers
  - ▶ Direct Grants providing assistance with: meeting CEQA requirements; improving air quality & reducing greenhouse gas emissions; remediation & relocation to an environmentally superior location; and projects related to hydrology and water quality
- ▶ Application Availability: possibly July 2021)
- ▶ Application Platform: Electronic Portal
- ▶ Fee Waiver & Direct Grant Processing: Mendocino Cannabis Program (Department)

# Fee Waivers

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Intended to provide applicants and permit holders with the ability to use LJAG program funding to pay for local permitting fees directly related to CEQA compliance. County fee waivers may be awarded via a 'gift certificate' system – no grant agreement or grant agreement processing is necessary.

- ▶ **Appendix G Processing Fee**
- ▶ **Special Inspection Fees** if the applicant or permit holder also holds a DCC provisional license, and one or more additional inspections are necessary to complete environmental and performance standard review
- ▶ **Grading permits** for approved water conservation projects, LSAA work orders, CalFire work orders, or other CEQA related projects as approved by the Program
- ▶ **Demolition permits** for the purpose of removing structures to meet less than significant impact criteria
- ▶ **Other permits** directly related to meeting CEQA requirements as approved by the Program

# LJAGP Direct Grant Application & Awards

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- ▶ Separate application process from County Fee Waivers
- ▶ Requires a grant agreement
- ▶ Requires the applicant to submit W9 tax paperwork
- ▶ Must be processed through Cobblestone, the County's contract processing platform
- ▶ Awardees receive the grant amount in the form of a County check sent via mail
- ▶ Processing timeline: from approval to award check is 6 – 11 weeks for Local Equity Program

# Assistance Meeting CEQA Requirements

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Funds may be used for hiring consultants and other professionals as necessary to complete any studies necessary to prepare the required CEQA documentation for that application

- ▶ Biological Surveys
- ▶ Archeological & Cultural Surveys
- ▶ Traffic Studies
- ▶ Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

# Improving Air Quality & Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Direct Grant funds will be available to assist applicants with projects that improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating the use of internal combustion engines such as:

- ▶ Generators
- ▶ Water pumps
- ▶ Other combustion engines upon approval

# Remediation & Relocation to an Environmentally Superior Location

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This program proposes allocating direct grant funding to applicants that need assistance covering the cost associated with moving cultivation operations to an environmentally superior location. An example of this might be moving a cultivation site to a location outside of a streamside management area.

# Hydrology & Water Quality

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## **Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)** Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement

- ▶ Notification expenses
- ▶ Technical support for notification preparation
- ▶ Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement projects

## **State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB)**, General Order & Clean Water Act (401 Permits)

- ▶ Filing fees
- ▶ Reporting and monitoring fees
- ▶ Water meters and installation
- ▶ Technical assistance

# Hydrology & Water Quality

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## **North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB)**

- ▶ Water Resource Protection Plan compliance projects
- ▶ Technical Assistance

## **Hydrology**

- ▶ Connectivity studies
- ▶ Grounder water availability studies
- ▶ Technical Assistance

## **Water Conservation**

- ▶ Rainwater Catchment Infrastructure
- ▶ Fee deferrals for permitting water infrastructure
- ▶ Forbearance tanks for surface water diversions

# Qualifying Criteria – Direct Grant & Fee Waiver (4:00 – 4:15)

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Minimum Criteria should include the following:

- ▶ In Good Standing Embossed Receipt, or Annual Permit, or
- ▶ Cannabis Business Facilities License (CFBL); AND
- ▶ Valid Provisional License issued by the Department of Cannabis Control

## Public Comment

- ▶ Raise Hand – to make a comment. The raise hand feature is located in the tool bar if using Zoom app. If dialing into the webinar, use \*9 to raise hand or lower hand.
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# Maximum Award Amount & Payment Schedule (4:15 – 4:30)

## Maximum Direct Grant Amount Considerations

- ▶ Local Equity Program funds are paid up front
  - ▶ \$50,000 Direct Grants
  - ▶ \$7,000 Fee Waivers
- ▶ All Direct Grant Awards that exceed \$50,000 must go to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
- ▶ Grant award payment schedules for consideration could include payment in tranches with true-up before next payment, or in-arrears, etc.

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# Benefits to Equity Certified Applicants (4:30 – 4:45)

Should equity certified applicants be eligible for special benefits when applying for LJAGP Direct Grant Funds and/or Fee Waivers?

If so, what types of benefits should be built into the LJAGP Direct Grant and/or Fee waiver Programs?

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# Fee Waivers (4:45 – 5:00)

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## Permit Fees from County Agencies

- ▶ Can be managed via a journal entry (departmental transfer of funds)
- ▶ Timeline from approval to fee payment: min 48 hours

## Permit Fees to Agencies Outside the County

- ▶ Require a grant agreement & W9 Tax Paperwork
- ▶ Must be routed through Cobblestone
- ▶ Awardees receive the fee amount in the form of a County check
- ▶ Timeline from approval to award:

## Public Comment

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