

CITY OF RIO DELL

LOCAL CANNABIS EQUITY PROGRAM MANUAL



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

(1) Qualifications

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

- (a) Apply as a person, not an entity.
- (b) Be one of the following:
 - (i) An individual licensed for, seeking a license for, or employment in a Rio Dell licensed cannabis business.
 - (ii) The business owner.
 - (iii) Own at least 40% of the business and be the CEO.
 - (iv) Own at least 51% of the business.
 - (v) A board member of a non-profit cannabis business where most of the board also qualify as equity applicants.
 - (vi) Have a membership interest in a cannabis business formed as a cooperative per Business and Profession Code Section 26220 - 26231.2.
 - (vii) An employee of, or seeking employment with, a Rio Dell licensed cannabis business.
- (c) Have resided in Humboldt County at least five years during the period 1971 – 2016.
- (d) Have obtained or applied for a permit for, be employed in or seeking employment in commercial cannabis activities in the City of Rio Dell, or shall apply for a permit for commercial cannabis activities from the City, or shall seek employment in connection with the services and assistance to be provided by the Rio Dell Cannabis Equity Program.
- (e) Meet at least one of the following equity conditions:
 - (i) Household income below 80% of median for Humboldt County in year submitting CLEP application.

(ii) 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;

(iii) 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;

(iv) 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;

(v) 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.

(vi) Be a member of an ethnic, racial or other disadvantaged community, including but not limited to LGBTQ persons.

(vii) Have become homeless or suffered a loss of housing as a result of marijuana enforcement during the period from 1971 – 2015.

(2) Services

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

(a) Waiver of fees for Application Assistance Meetings of up to two (2) hours;

(b) Technical Assistance from the City, including assistance with application preparation, Plan of Operations preparation, Site Plan preparation, etc., not to exceed eight (8) hours;

(c) Deferral of payment of Application Fees for Cannabis Activities for a period not to exceed two (2) years;

(d) Reduction or deferral of local cannabis excise taxes as approved by the City Council.

(e) 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;

(f) Any other technical or financial assistance as deemed appropriate by the City Council.

(3) Program Administration

- (a) No more than ten percent (10%) of Bureau of Cannabis Control Local Equity Program Grant Funds may be utilized for program administration;
- (b) Principal Administration and coordination of services shall be administered by the City Manager, Community Development Director and the Finance Director for determination of eligibility;
- (c) City staff shall promulgate any policies, procedures, and forms necessary for program administration and submit them to the City Council for review and approval;
- (d) To the maximum extent feasible, City 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 2 above;
- (e) City staff shall monitor and report on all program services provided through the CLEP, at least annually and more frequently as directed by the City Council, State law or regulation;
- (f) The Planning and Building Department shall receive and process all applications to determine eligibility of equity program participants with coordination with the City Manager and Finance Director.

(4) Budget Allocation

Available Program funds shall be allocated for Services specified in Section 2, above, as follows:

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

Questions regarding the City's Local Cannabis Equity Program or the Commercial Cannabis Regulations should be directed to the Community Development Director. Copies of the implementing Ordinance and Resolution are available at City Hall, 675 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell, California, 95562. Copies are also available at the City's website:

www.cityofriodell.ca.gov