

MOTION

The California Cannabis Equity Act of 2018 (Bradford, 2018) established a Local Equity Grant Program, which provides grant funds that are administered by the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development. This Local Equity Grant provides funds for direct assistance to local jurisdictions’ commercial cannabis Social Equity Programs, and their Social Equity applicants and licensees.

The City of Los Angeles operates a Social Equity Program that promotes equitable ownership and employment opportunities for marginalized communities in order to address the disproportionate impacts of the War on Drugs in those communities. In October 2022, the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development issued a grant solicitation for the Cannabis Equity Grants Program, and subsequently, the Department of Cannabis Regulation submitted an application for additional grant funding. In March 2024, the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development announced that the City of Los Angeles was awarded an additional \$3,000,000 in equity grant funding for the City’s Social Equity Program.

The Department of Cannabis Regulation intends to allocate the funds from the Local Equity Grant Program for a grant program for local equity applicants or licensees to assist with startup and ongoing costs, to provide technical and business development assistance, and to provide workforce development assistance to local Social Equity Program applicants and participants.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council authorize the Department of Cannabis Regulation to accept a grant in the amount of \$3,000,000 from the State of California to be used to assist the City’s commercial cannabis Social Equity Program and Social Equity applicants and licensees; to deposit these funds into a new Account in Fund No. 60E-13, entitled “2024 Cannabis Equity Grant (CEG);” and to execute the attached standard agreement with the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development for the period of April 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025, including any extensions or amendments thereof, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council adopt the attached Resolution as required by the granting agency.

PRESENTED BY: 
CURREN D. PRICE, JR.
Councilmember, 9th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

PK

APR 02 2024

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the members of the California Legislature have recognized the need for cannabis equity grant funding; and

WHEREAS, funding has been provided to the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to provide grant funds to local governments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has adopted and operates a local equity program for commercial cannabis activity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has determined that it will use grant funds from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to assist local equity applicants and licensees through its local equity program for commercial cannabis activity as described in its application for grant funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Director of the Social Equity Program of the City of Los Angeles is authorized to execute by electronic signature on behalf of the City of Los Angeles, the grant agreement with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, including any extensions or amendments thereof and any subsequent grant agreement with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development in relation thereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any liability arising out of the performance of this grant agreement, including civil court actions for damages, shall be the responsibility of the grant recipient and the authorizing agency. The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the State of California disclaim responsibility for any such liability.