



STAFF REPORT
11/13/2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Jaime Arroyo, Grants Manager

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution No. 2024-61 Authorizing State of California Cannabis Equity Act Grant Funding

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council consider adopting Resolution No. 2024-61 authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the Office of the Governor's Business and Economic Development's (Go-Biz) under the FY 2024-25 Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions in the amount of \$500,000 and authorize the City Manager to execute any and all necessary documentation, including a standard agreement to accept the grant funds, if awarded.

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, the City of Coachella Cannabis Equity Program was established to support equitable opportunities in the local cannabis industry by making legal cannabis business ownership and employment opportunities more accessible to individuals negatively impacted by the prior criminalization of cannabis in Long Beach. This support includes access to resources such as direct technical assistance and grants, expedited application review, and priority consideration in the licensing process for Local Equity Applicants/Licensees. GO-Biz, in accordance with the California Cannabis Equity Act, administers the Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions to aid local equity program efforts to support equity applicants. GO-Biz requires 80 percent of the City's total grant award to be redistributed to equity applicants in the form of direct grants. The remaining 20 percent is split evenly between administrative costs and direct technical assistant costs.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The latest grant award will be utilized to assist equity applicants with ongoing and startup costs including rent/lease payments, local licensing and regulatory fees, legal assistance, regulatory compliance, capital improvements, furniture, fixtures, and equipment. In addition, the grant award will help to continue to fund administrative costs and technical assistance to provide educational resources and one-on-one advisory services in the areas of site location and lease negotiation, financial assistance, and regulatory compliance.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-61 Authorizing State of California Cannabis Equity Act Grant Funding
2. Not Adopt Resolution No. 2024-61 Authorizing State of California Cannabis Equity Act Grant Funding

FISCAL IMPACT:

The grant has no required match or in-kind service mandate. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. This recommendation will result in the continued employment of City staff funded through this grant who help administer the Cannabis Equity Program in the Development Services Department.

ATTACHMENT:

Resolution No. 2024-61