

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: *Authorize grant agreements with seventeen organizations for the Social Equity and Educational Development Initiatives at the Office of Community & Civic Life for a total not to exceed \$1,800,000 (Ordinance)

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

In November 2016, City of Portland voters approved Portland Ballot Measure 26-180 to impose a 3% local tax on adult-use cannabis retail sales. Racially-biased cannabis policies and disparate cannabis-related arrests, convictions, and sentencing have had long lasting legal, social, economic, and inter-generational consequences to Black, Indigenous and Latino/a/x communities. In 2020, Portland City Council approved an ongoing portion of the cannabis tax revenue to be allocated to the Office of Community & Civic Life's Cannabis Program to rectify some of these past harms and to reinvest in these communities directly.

Moreover, intergenerational marginalization and community disinvestment are further continued by policies denying U.S. residency, child custody, voting rights, employment, business loans, business licensing, student financial aid, public housing and other public assistance to people with criminal convictions. The Office of Community & Civic Life recognizes that restorative efforts and repairing the harm caused by decades of racially-biased enforcement of cannabis prohibition law will take equally long to reverse the damage.

Supported by the ongoing \$1 million in cannabis tax revenue funding, Social Equity & Educational Development (SEED) Initiatives, launched in 2020, is the cannabis program's vehicle for single-source monitoring, measuring & reporting on the city's 3% excise tax return on equity investment, including administering the SEED Grant Fund (formerly cannabis social equity grants). In the United States, it is the first cannabis equity and community investment program of its kind integrated within the cannabis regulatory office.

The SEED Grant Fund aims to aid, strengthen, and serve restorative justice, community reinvestment, and wealth creation in Black, Indigenous and Latino/a/x communities, which have been disproportionately impacted by over 80 years of cannabis prohibition laws. Cannabis policies and disparate cannabis-related arrests, convictions, and sentencing have had life-altering and inter-generational consequences for these specific communities. The grant fund is one small step for the City in acknowledging and addressing the decades of harm caused to Black, Indigenous, and communities of color by cannabis criminalization and stigmatization.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

Civic Life recommends a total of \$1,800,000 for 2021 SEED Grant Fund awards from the Recreational Cannabis Tax Fund. Civic Life will distribute \$1,000,000 from FY 2020-21 budget and \$800,000 from FY 2021-22 budget as part of the SEED Initiatives.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The development of SEED Initiatives, subsequent grant design changes and priority funding areas have been informed by stakeholder engagement through the Cannabis Policy Oversight Team (CPOT), and stakeholder feedback from: community listening sessions, past three grant cycles and applicants; Cannabis Community Conversations; and information from City, regional and national efforts in cannabis equity, community economic development and restorative justice.

The SEED Grant Fund will distribute funding across a range of projects, programs and services within the designated priority areas. In accordance with voter intention of the Ballot Measure 26-180, additional priority will be given to BIPOC-led projects, programs and services AND/OR projects, programs and services that demonstrate institutional policies and practices in equity, community partnerships, and economic development in communities most negatively impacted by cannabis prohibition.

All programs and projects funded by the SEED Grant Fund will:

- Prioritize communities, businesses, and individuals who've been adversely impacted by cannabis prohibition in program/project services;
- Build sustainable capacity in BIPOC communities and BIPOC- and women-owned businesses or individuals;
- Reflect institutional commitment to outcomes in equity, collective impact, and economic development;
- Increase community building and civic engagement opportunities for communities working towards equitable outcomes.

PRIORITY FUNDING AREAS:**EDUCATION**

- Youth Training & Development
- Workforce Development
- Community Education
- Health Education
- STEAM Education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math or Medical)

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Business incubation & acceleration
- Business Support for Entrepreneurs

- Co-working Spaces
- Networking & Mentorship

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & EXPUNGEMENT

- Criminal justice reform projects and services
- Legal services and case management support
- Re-entry housing support and services

TOTAL APPLICATIONS

- € 123 round one applications submitted
 - 79.7% led or owned by Black, Indigenous and/or people of color (BIPOC), including multiracial
 - 37.4% Multiple prioritized areas
 - 20.3% Education
 - 20.3% Entrepreneurship & Economic Development
 - 18.7% Cannabis
 - 3.3% Criminal Justice & Expungement
- € 40 SEED Grant Finalists
 - 65% led or owned by BIPOC
- € 37 final round applications submitted

PROPOSED GRANT RECIPIENTS (At-a-glance)

17 organizations; 89% led or owned by BIPOC; 29% led or owned by women

- 41% Black (7)
- 24% BIPOC/multiracial (4)
- 12% Latino/a/x (2)
- 6% Indigenous (1)
- 6% AAPI (1)
- 11% Other (2)

100% Renewable Goal:

N/A

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- YES: Please complete the information below.
- NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount