

PRESS RELEASE
COMMISSIONER AMANDA FRITZ
COMMISSIONER CHLOE EUDALY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2018

Contact: Claire Adamsick, Office of Commissioner Fritz, 503-823-6388
Jamey Duhamel, Office of Commissioner Eudaly, 503-823-3061

City Announces Grant Opportunities for Cannabis Record Clearing and Workforce Reentry
Informational Session on March 12th for interested organizations

Portland, OR – The City of Portland invites organizations to apply for a share of \$350,000 in grant funding available to address record clearing and workforce development opportunities for individuals disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition.

The City of Portland Grants Office will host an informational meeting for potential record clearing and workforce development grant applicants, on Monday, March 12, 2018, from 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Portland City Hall, Pettygrove Room (2nd floor), 1221 SW 4th Ave, Portland, Oregon 97204.

“Through these funds, the City will play an important role in correcting the past inequities of the criminal justice system by removing barriers people with prior cannabis records face in terms of accessing housing, a job, or a loan,” said Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who championed the City’s successful 3% tax on recreational cannabis sales in a 2016 ballot measure. The ballot language contained specific promises regarding how tax money would be used, including this purpose.

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who oversees the City’s Cannabis Program in the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, explained that the authority to vacate marijuana-related convictions lies with Multnomah County. “My staff and I hope to work closely with our colleagues at the County to develop legislation around expungement. In the meantime, these grant dollars have the potential to help a significant number of Portlanders gain access to legal services and reentry programs.”

Funding may be awarded in the following areas:

Record Clearing: Undo direct harm to those disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition by removing barriers to housing, employment, and education through legal support including but not limited to expungement, fine reduction, and charge reduction.

Workforce Development: Create pathways for people disproportionately impacted by previous cannabis laws to obtain family-wage jobs, including, but not limited to, training, mentorship, and other workforce reentry support.

In addition to \$350,000 in tax money for record clearing and workforce development efforts, \$150,000 will be allocated to grants toward cannabis industry-specific support and technical assistance to businesses. This is a separate funding track that will be managed by Prosper Portland.

All applications must be submitted by Friday, March 30, 2018. For more information, see <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/brfs/76223>.