

PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Portland Awards Grants to Support Cannabis Record Clearing and Workforce Reentry

Supporting Cannabusiness in Portland

Portland, OR – The City of Portland is proud to announce the recipients of this year’s Cannabis Tax Allocation grants. The projects selected will direct funds toward record clearing or workforce development and reentry with a specific focus on helping individuals from communities of color disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition.

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

Funding will be awarded to the following successful applicants:

[Green Hop LLC](#) (Workforce Development)

The Cannabis Workforce Incubator is an intentional effort to racially diversify the cannabis industry with an accelerated training and apprenticeship academy that connects historically underserved populations with the knowledge of how to enter the cannabis industry, from seed to sale.

[Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center + Rosemary Anderson High School](#)

(Workforce Reentry)

A construction pre-apprenticeship program for communities of color & low-income young adults, with focused outreach and recruitment to individuals disproportionately impacted by former cannabis laws. Provides training in construction to young adults, with an emphasis on increasing the number of youth and young adults with living-wage professional construction careers.

[Metropolitan Public Defender](#) (Record Clearing)

This project will expand MPD’s existing “Legal Services Day” program to find anyone in the city of Portland with a marijuana charge on their record: MPD will cover fees and provide legal support to clear residents’ records.

[Prosper Portland](#) selected [Nu Leaf](#) as the provider for the agency's Cannabis Business Development Equity Program, a new initiative to address technical assistance needs for cannabis entrepreneurs from communities that have historically been disproportionately, negatively impacted by the prohibition of cannabis.

"I am pleased that the City is leveraging these tax dollars to support organizations that will directly serve Portlanders who have suffered the inequities of the criminal justice system and need basic legal support and training that will help them access 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.

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who oversees the City's Cannabis Program, said, "It is the City's responsibility to ensure that the benefits of this industry are extended to all, particularly communities of color disproportionately impacted by prohibition. I appreciate that the partnerships formed through this grants process will move us forward toward tangible restorative justice by increasing access to legal services and reducing barriers to entry in the cannabis industry."

The City allocated \$700,000 to the areas of restorative justice and small business support for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 and the Cannabis Program in the Office of Community & Civic Life will manage these funds.

For more information, see <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/brfs/76223>.

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