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City of San Diego Awarded State Grant to Develop Cannabis Equity Program

CITYWIDE ASSESSMENT WILL LOOK AT HISTORICAL IMPACTS OF CANNABIS LAWS, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SAN DIEGO – In keeping with Mayor Todd Gloria’s promise to create more equity around City services, the City of San Diego plans to develop a program to promote ownership and employment opportunities in the legal cannabis industry. This week, the City was awarded a \$75,000 grant that will help fund a cannabis equity assessment and support the development of a first-ever cannabis equity program.

"As San Diego recovers from the pandemic and our economy builds back, we're doing everything we can to ensure that it happens equitably -- and that includes promoting equity and eliminating barriers for entry into the regulated cannabis industry," said Mayor Todd Gloria. "This survey will help assess how effective our current efforts are and help us design a regulatory program that creates social equity in the growing local legal cannabis sector."

The cannabis equity assessment will provide a data-informed look at the historical impacts of cannabis criminalization on San Diego, assess potential opportunities and constraints in the current regulatory framework and provide policy recommendations to assure equity and diversity in the emerging cannabis industry. Information gathered from the assessment will serve as a blueprint for a future equity program to support pathways to cannabis business development.

San Diego was among several other cities to receive a Cannabis Equity Grant from the Governor’s [Office of Business and Economic Development](#) (GO-Biz) in partnership with the Bureau of Cannabis Control through the Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions.

"The assessment to be conducted under this grant will be foundational in the development of regulatory framework changes that may be needed for San Diego’s cannabis program," said Cannabis Business Division Deputy Director PJ Fitzgerald. "Viewed through an equity lens, we will ensure all our communities have access to participate in the legalized cannabis marketplace."

With the passage of Prop. 64 in 2016, the City adopted regulations for cannabis businesses, including [retail outlets, production and testing facilities](#). Last year, the City also formed a [Cannabis Business](#)

[Division](#) within the Development Services Department. The Division will develop and manage the City's cannabis program by issuing permits and regulating cannabis businesses conforming with San Diego Municipal Code requirements.

The City also recently established the Office of Race and Equity dedicated to addressing racial justice, equity, and providing fair and just distribution of resources, access and opportunity. Together both programs will partner to conduct San Diego's cannabis equity assessment over the next year.

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