

## **Meeting Minutes for the Cannabis Social Equity Advisory Board**

**Friday, April 26, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

### **Board Members in Attendance via Remote Access:**

- Keisha Brice (Chair)
- Meaka Brown
- Chris Fevry
- Ryan Dominguez

### **Meeting Minutes:**

#### Welcome and Introductions

- Chair Keisha Brice called the meeting to order at approximately 10:03 AM.
- Chair Brice moved to approve the meeting minutes from the November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting. The motion was approved.
- New CSETF Advisory Member Ryan Dominguez introduced himself and provided a background on his experience.

#### Review on Immediate Needs Grant Program Round 1

- EOED Assistance Secretary for Communities and Programs, Juan Vega, and CSETF Administrator, Joseph Gilmore, provided an overview of the Immediate Needs Grant Program round. Juan Vega provided an overview of the grant process timeline from issuance of NOFA to the disbursement of funds.
- Board members engaged in discussion with EOED staff regarding specifics of grant program, including obstacles, challenges and data collection of current round and considerations for next round.
- Chair Brice inquired about information regarding the balance of the CSETF; EOED Deputy Chief of Staff, Rory O'Hanlon, responded that approximately \$27 million remains in the Trust Fund after the disbursement of the Immediate Needs Grant Program grants.

#### Overview of Next Round of CSETF Financial Assistance

- Mr. Vega provided an overview of the upcoming round of financial assistance from the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund, including types of funding available for applicants at different stages.
- CSEAB members inquired about proposal and offered suggestions, including offering additional rounds of the Immediate Needs Grant Programs.
- Mr. Dominguez suggested creating a zero-interest loan program with opportunities for loan forgiveness; Juan Vega noted the focus for 2024 is to provide grants, but a loan option is under consideration.
- Chair Brice suggested creating a contact list to provide outreach for upcoming Advisory Board meetings; Mr. Fejzic agreed and noted that EOED coordinates with the CCC to send out information to reach stakeholders.

- Mr. Vega noted that applicants who were denied funding this round are given the opportunity to meet and receive feedback on their application to improve potential opportunities for future rounds.

#### Adjournment

- Chair Brice called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 AM, which was made and seconded. All members present voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned.