

Meeting Minutes for the Cannabis Social Equity Advisory Board

Monday, July 22, 2024

4:00 PM

Board Members in Attendance via Remote Access:

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

Meeting Minutes:

Welcome and Introductions

- Chair Keisha Brice called the meeting to order at approximately 4:02pm.
- Chair Brice moved to approve the meeting minutes from April 26th, 2024 Meeting. The motion was approved.

INGP Round 1 Overview from CSETF Program Staff

- Juan Vega, EOED Assistant Secretary for Communities and Programs, provided a closing summary of the first round of the Immediate Needs Grant Program (INGP). He outlined key achievements, including the total number of applications received, grants awarded, and number of finalized contracts.
- Juan highlighted that Section 14A of Chapter 94G of Massachusetts General Laws permits the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund to accept private donations. EOED is actively working to establish the process for accepting these funds.
- In response to Chair Brice's inquiry about whether donors could dictate the use of funds, Juan clarified that while EOED is developing a policy for donations, all donated funds are currently unrestricted.

Draft Social Equity Grant Program Overview

- Juan Vega discussed the EOED's next program under the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund, entitled the Social Equity Grant Program (SEGP), a competitive grant program offering multiple tiers of grant support for eligible Social Equity businesses at all stages in the licensing process, including those exploring entry into the cannabis industry.
- Joseph Gilmore, EOED Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund Administrator, provided a detailed overview of the SEGP, including types of financial support, a description of each grant tier, and evaluation criteria for scoring and reviewing applications.

General Board Discussion

- Board members commended EOED staff for aligning the program's priorities with advisory board recommendations.

- Board members provided feedback on grant sizes for each tier.
- The board discussed whether applicants should be allowed to submit multiple applications across different grant tiers.
- Chair Brice emphasized the importance of outreach to external organizations and interest groups to enhance program visibility and participation.

Adjournment

- Chair Brice called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 PM, which was made and seconded. All members present voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned.